THE

WEEKLY MAGAZINE,

OR

EDINBURGH AMUSEMENT.

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THE MORALIST.

NUMBER I.

To the PUBLISHER *of the* WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

But come, ye generous minds, in whose wide thought
Of all his works creative bounty burns
With warmest beam; and on your open front,
And liberal eye, sits from his dark retreat,
Inviting modest want.—Nor till invok'd
Can restless goodness wait;—your active search
Leaves no cold wintry corner unexplor'd;
Like silent-working heaven, surprising oft
The lonely heart with unexpected good.—
For *you* the roving spirit of the wind
Blows spring abroad; for *you* the teeming clouds
Descend in gladsome plenty o'er the world;
And the sun sheds his kindest rays for *you*,
Ye flower of human race!

THOMSON'S SEASONS.

SIR,

AMONG all the virtues that adorn the human mind, there are none so truly amiable as a generous propensity to alleviate the distresses of our fellow-creatures. Such a celestial disposition, more than any other, coincides with the divine nature, and from which every good and every moral action naturally ensues. It is from a *sympathetic tenderness* that we are excited to commiserate, and to participate in the sorrows of others—that we shed a pitying tear in their behalf, and voluntarily exert ourselves to render them all the services in our power; and, while we behold with pleasure a similar disposition in others, we enjoy the most pleasing sensations from the conscious humanity of our own breasts. We may reverence a prince for his dignity, a warrior for his bravery, and a rich man for his possessions, but the benevolent actions of the *humane* individual more forcibly attracts our admiration and esteem. Nor can any reflection prove so grateful to a generous and susceptible mind as that which proceeds from the supplying the wants of our fellow creatures. From hence we naturally revolve with ecstasy that animating passage of the sacred writings,—*Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. For I was hungry, and ye*

gave me meat: thirsty, and ye gave me drink: naked, and ye clothed me: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me. Inasmuch as ye have done these things unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

How different, in a moral or religious view, must be the mental happiness of those who derive their felicity from the temporary enjoyment of the good things of this world—from their being able to live supine in indolence—to gratify their wished appetites with luxurious dainties—to decorate their persons with perishing trifles of costly acquisition—and to appear in all the grandeur and gaiety of an elevated sphere in life; while they seldom deign to reflect how many millions of their fellow-mortals are suffering from a want of the common requisites of nature, or painfully struggling with all the difficulties attendant on an impoverished situation in life—who, like the rich man in the gospel, do not even bestow on them the crumbs that fall from their tables.—At length, and in a short time, that *useful* period arrives, which they had always flattered themselves to be yet far distant, when the recollection of their past lives alarms them with the most dreadful apprehensions, and they resolve with terror on the scriptural sentence,—*Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry, &c.*;—while the former are confidently anticipating the final hour with joyful emotions, from the conscious discharge of their Christian duties, and who bid the world adieu with a pleasing and heart-felt serenity.

Alas! however much the rich and dignified may exult in their temporary acquisitions, is it worth while, for such a *short* enjoyment of them, to live regardless of eternal misery in the world to come?—It is, indeed, but too true, that many imagine their acting honourably in their *commercial* dealings with mankind (to which many of these are excited from motives merely *supercilious*), and refraining from the commission of the *grosser* vices, are sufficient to intitle them to the promised felicity of a future state. I wish they may find it so,—but the sacred writings do not *assure* them of it. RELIGION requires the performance of many other duties to which they live estranged. The exercises of public and private devotion appear either formal or tedious to them, and too much interfere with the pursuit of those recreations which they so wantonly and incessantly pursue. Such would do well to contemplate on Prior's paraphrased poem of king Solomon, which their own experience, on sober consideration, must convince them of the authenticity of.

Can it be rationally supposed, that the bountiful Creator of the universe has furnished this earthly globe with rational creatures for no other purpose but to gratify their own carnal appetites and propensities?—Were we not formed to magnify the sacred name of Divine Majesty—to be assiduous in the execution of every good and humane action—and to deem our neighbour's happiness coæval with our own?—And yet how little are such duties attended to by many of those on whom Fortune has lavishly bestowed her favours, and with which they should endeavour to mitigate the calamities of those around them. Are they not as STEWARDS, intrusted with the *distribution* of the riches they possess, in order to render their fellow mortals happy?

Does not the contemplation of universal nature afford a striking example of morality on this occasion?—Do we not find the illiterate and unpolished inhabitants of many parts of the globe, tenderly affected with the distresses of others, and exulting in every opportunity of relieving them from the same? And do we not perceive even the brute creation inclined, from natural instinct, to protect and condole with each other?—And shall MAN, endued with more enlightened reason and understanding, be insensible to the tears of affliction, or deaf to the voice of calamity!—How unworthy, how unfit is such a one to be admitted into, or to reside in the celestial regions of immortality!—COMPASSION is the *sublimest* attribute of the Supreme Being; and whoever enjoys *most* of that virtue in this world will certainly be the *happiest* in the world to come.

I have been naturally led into these moral reflections from the exemplary virtues and piety of a gentleman (father of the young lady mentioned in the poem sent with this *), who justly merits the esteem of every good, and every honest individual. Possessed of the most pacific

* *See the Poetical Department*, P. 49.

and benevolent diſpoſition, he never deſignedly gives offence to any one; but, actuated by every virtuous ſentiment and humane propenſity, ſtudiouſly endeavours to do all the good in his power. Happy in himſelf, from the conſcious diſcharge of his moral and ſocial duties, he wiſhes to ſee every one around him ſo, and is never ſo happy as when he is able to aſſiſt or facilitate the felicity of others. Was his fortune equal to the benevolent generoſity of his heart, his bounty would be proportionably univerſal, and thouſands of the objects of diſtreſs would be ſure to find relief from the rays of his charity, that are now pining under the anguiſh of forlorn deſpair. On as many as he can afford to relieve he liberally beſtows—for the reſt his ſuſceptible boſom heaves the ſympathetic ſigh, and a tear of pity is often ready to trickle from his eyes. Merit, however poorly attired, he eſteems; villainy, though dreſſed in embroidery, he nobly deſpiſes;—ever ready to patronize virtue and true goodneſs, and to diſcourage vice and immorality.

Such is the genuine characteriſtic of this *amiable* perſon; and I have thought it neceſſary to let the world know who he is, that the deſcription of him might not be deemed a fiction, and in order to excite the greater emulation (from the more powerful influence of his conduct) among others. Did every one, poſſeſſed of affluence and ability, equally contribute to the relief of the diſtreſſed, how many honeſt families, that are at this time ſtruggling with the unmerited aſſaults of misfortune, might be rendered happy. How much more worthy to be reſpected is ſuch a perſon, in the reflection of every congenial mind, than the unfeeling and uncharitable individual of the moſt ſuperior rank or fortune. Yet it is not to be ſuppoſed that he wants his adverſaries—*common* to the *beſt* of men, and to which even his *moral* attachments will naturally ſubject him.

In the preſent age of degeneracy, the votaries of morality and religion are far from being univerſally reſpected, the majority of mankind having ſo far deviated from thoſe principles which they ought to poſſeſs, while they are unhappily attached to vices and propenſities that tend to the diſgrace of human nature, and which ſubject them to endleſs miſery on the other ſide of the grave. The ſober, modeſt, and well-meaning individual is frequently taken but little notice of, while the ſupercilious villain is often proportionably careſſed. On ſuch it is that our great men are frequently wont to beſtow their favours, and on thoſe whoſe favourable circumſtances do not ſtand in *need* of them. The acquiſition of united ſalaries will *increaſe* their yearly income, but they would render others *happy* that are unable to procure the neceſſaries of life without them, while the benefactors would enjoy the pleaſing ſatisfaction of having imitated the example of our bleſſed Redeemer (who, while on earth, endeavoured to do all the good in his power), and have reaſon to rejoice in the anticipation of being rewarded *accordingly* in a future world.—But, alas! this will never be the caſe with thoſe who are wont to think only of the *preſent*, and the temporary enjoyments thereof:—and yet, when the laſt hour approaches, if they do not expire in a ſtate of inſenſibility, they tremble and ſtart for their fate on the other ſide of the grave, and are able to derive but little ſatisfactory conſolation either from a review of their paſt conduct, or the promiſes of divine clemency.—A *death-bed* repentance can never be *relied on*, being only the reſult of that *fear* which every malefactor poſſeſſes when he is going to appear before his TRIBUNAL.

Were ſuch, while they are regaling themſelves with all the luxuries of life, ſeriouſly to revolve for a moment on the languiſhing condition of thoſe who are ſoliciting their aid, and whoſe ſolicitations they are, perhaps, in gratitude for favours received, obligated to obſerve, how ſoon would their appetites fail them, and how *expeditiouſly* would they haſten to relieve them!——They could ſcarcely forbear to be affected, when, amidſt their own enjoyment of the *ſupernumerary* bleſſings of life, they ſaw (though but in *idea*) the dutiful and affectionate huſband, whoſe aſſiduous endeavours to provide for his family had not been ſufficient to enable him to continue to reſiſt the preſſure of an impropitious fate, torn from the arms of his diſconſolate wife and children, by unfeeling, authoriſed ruffians, and impriſoned within the dreary and inſalutary walls of a common goal, where the rays of the ſun perhaps never enter, and where he languiſhes under the complicated diſtreſs of penury and mental diſquietude, till

the friendly hand of death puts an end to his misery;—while, in the mean time, the virtuous comfort of his once happier days (who has daily shed unpitied and unavailable tears), together with the unhappy pledges of their mutual loves, are exposed to various and complicated hardships, destitute of the common necessaries of life, and without a friend to protect them from the insults of an inhumane world.—While I have been thus only *conceiving* what is, at this moment, the unhappy fate of many thousands of our fellow creatures, I have not been able to restrain the effusion of a sympathising tear, nor to suppress the sigh which enlarges the concavity of my breast.

How little knows the insusceptive heart
The pleasing force of soothing others' woe;
Strangers to joys soft pity can impart,
And tears of sweet sympathy can teach to flow.

The MORALIST.

Berwick-upon-Tweed, Sept. 20.

On the Inexpediency of introducing a Law for establishing POOR'S RATES *in* Scotland. [P. 3.]

LETTER II.

To the PUBLISHER *of the* WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

SIR,

ENGLAND enjoys many advantages which we are not possessed of; but it likewise feels some political inconveniencies from which we are happily exempted; among the foremost of which may be ranked the collecting of tithes in kind, and the law for establishing Poor's Rates, either of which would in a short time ruin our poor country; the one by checking a spirit for industry, the other by introducing idleness, oppression, depopulation, and all its train of miseries and woes. Happy for us if we be fully sensible of the benefits that result from our exemption from these laws, and can keep ourselves from the ruin that either of these, if introduced, would bring upon our part of the island!

Long have the English groaned under the oppressive load of both these burdens, but it is only of late that they have begun to have a just sense of the exceeding pernicious tendency of the last of these laws; nor have they as yet experienced the half of the ills that will in time spring up from that source, as it would perhaps exceed the power of human faculties to invent a law at first sight so seemingly beneficent, and in the end so exceedingly destructive as this is, as will appear by attending to a variety of circumstances which experience alone could fully bring to light, that well deserve to be pointed out to the inhabitants of Scotland at this time.

The first projectors of a poor's rate in England would hardly have believed that a time should ever arrive, when the post of assessor of the poor's rate, &c. should be looked upon as an employment of such value as to provoke candidates to bribe and canvass for votes to be admitted into it almost as much as to become a member of parliament; yet it is a truth well known in our days, that this is not only often, but generally practised; and however dishonourable it may be deemed by some, yet there are not wanting numbers who, without any sense of shame or decency, congratulate their friends upon their election into this office, as is usual upon the acquisition of any other lucrative post, or other unlooked for good fortune: and they have reason; for it seldom happens that one who has a friend in that office needs be afraid of the pinching gripe of poverty, or any of those ills that are its necessary attendants.

Such of my readers as have been accustomed to look upon money levied for the poor as a sacred deposit, which none but the most infamous among mankind would ever presume to meddle with, will look upon this as an exaggerated account, intended to influence the minds of ignorant people against a mode of giving charity, which I myself do disapprove of, imagining that it would be impossible that mankind should ever arrive at such a pitch of wickedness. I do not desire that they should take it upon my word any longer, than till they shall examine into the affair more minutely themselves, not being afraid of meeting with any contradiction from that examination. To others who think, that if men are allowed to go on with impunity, without being called to account for it, such things might perhaps be possible; yet as it might be easy to frame a law that should oblige them to be account-

able to the people whenever they chose to call for it, the evils apprehended might be thus very easily obviated. To these I would observe, that in cases of this kind, it is extremely difficult to make any law that cunning and chicane may not find ways to elude: and as they must, from the nature of their office, be intrusted with certain discretionary powers, in any case wherein any individual should differ in opinion from them, the limits of these discretionary powers can only be ascertained by a legal judge; and where is the man, who, without particular personal provocation, will throw away his own money to call them to a legal account for their conduct? It is even become a proverb, that *what is the business of every one, is the particular concern of none*; so that while they have the command of the public money, with which they will defend themselves in case of an attack of this kind, without impairing their own private stock, few persons will chuse to contend with them, except in very notorious cases. Thus we might reason from theory, and experience confirms the observation; for although by the laws of England every man may call for a sight of the poor's books, yet few have access to see them; and I never knew an instance of the managers of the poor's money being called to a proper account except in one case, although the universal mismanagement is notorious. This particular case occurred to the town of P——n in L——ca——re, where the late lord S——e, son of the d—e of D——sh—e resided, who being, from political motives, desirous to gain the favour of the people, called for a sight of the poor's books, but was refused, till he brought a suit against them in chancery. When they were at length obliged to shew their books, he found in many of them sums given away without their having specified to whom—thus: to —— 5l. to —— 10l. &c.; and when they were interrogated about these blanks, they said that it was charitable donations to decayed gentlewomen, &c. whose names they did not chuse to insert. But this not satisfying his lordship, he insisted upon knowing their names, which being peremptorily refused, was the occasion of a new suit; the result of which was a decree, ordaining the managers of the poor's money either to condescend upon the persons who had got these sums, or refund them out of their own pocket. This came heavy upon them, but still heavier upon his lordship, who spent better than a hundred pounds upon the process: so that experience shows, that it is not good to rely upon the power of coercive laws, where the temptation to elude them is great.

Where a people are industrious, a very small sum equally paid by the whole number of substantial householders would be sufficient to maintain their poor; and it happened accordingly, that for many years after the poor's rate law was enacted in England, the weight of the tax was hardly felt, being in some places nothing, in others two-pence, three-pence, or four-pence in the pound of rent;—but the case is now widely changed, and, in consequence of luxury and mismanagement, it is at present in many places five shillings in the pound, and in some, as particularly at *Colchester*, as high as 16 s. 6 d. in the pound of rent. Let me ask at the most strenuous advocates for this law, what would become of any part of Scotland, should a tax any thing near that sum be levied? or how it is possible that there should be a real necessity for such a tax, without evident mismanagement? and what security have we against experiencing the same, if such a law should take place among us? In England poor's rates have in general doubled or tripled in less than twenty years*. What a dreadful prospect does this open to futurity! Let us behold the prospect at a distance, and bless our wise forefathers, who, if they have not left us rich, have at least preserved us from seeing the fruits of our industry squandered away upon idle drones, and serving to establish luxury, dissipation and vice, instead of promoting sobriety and virtue.

Another necessary bad consequence of this law is, that many of the vulgar considering the money procured by it as a fund that can never be exhausted, are at no pains while in health and vigour to lay up some provision for old age; or, when age or distress comes upon them, to live somewhat more hardly than before; but spending at all times, often in drunkenness and debauchery, all that they earn, they are careless of to-morrow, and without stinting themselves of

* *See* Young's *Eastern Tour*, Vol. iv. P. 336.

a ſingle meal, or abating one article of their luxurious † exceſs, throw themſelves upon the parith and live in opulence and eaſe, without any ſenſe of ſhame for their behaviour. This appears to contrary to, and paſſing any idea that we have hitherto formed of charitable donations in Scotland, that I ſhall readily allow thoſe who have not attended to this ſubject, to hold up their hands in utter amazement; but however ſtrange it may to them appear, there is no poſſibility of doubting the fact.

It will here perhaps be ſaid, that the inconvenience here complained of, is not a conſequence of the law, but an abuſe of it, ariſing from the negligence of thoſe who are intruſted with the execution of it. It is moſt readily granted that it is an abuſe, but it is an abuſe that neceſſarily takes its riſe from the law itſelf. When one can diſpoſe of the goods of another at will with impunity, it naturally tends to corrupt the heart, and to make them leſs ſcrupulous about the objects to whom they give bounty than on other occaſions;—their friends and acquaintance; elect their favour, and are indulged;—leſt others ſhould look upon this as evident partiality, other perſons who have as little claim to charity are admitted. It is likewiſe neceſſary that they ſhould procure a party for them, which can only be done by largeſſes beſtowed upon the friends of thoſe who can befriend them: the mouths of enemies muſt be ſtopped, which is likewiſe done, by eaſily admitting into the poor's rolls many of their favourites or dependents. Thus does every circumſtance tend to relax the care that ought to be obſerved to give only to proper objects, and the pernicious practice above named has been naturally eſtabliſhed, which has now got ſuch firm footing in almoſt every place, as to leave no room to hope that ever it can be aboliſhed.

Another neceſſary conſequence of the laſt mentioned particular is, the difficulty that the ordinary people in England have to find places of abode; for, being afraid of being overloaded with theſe poor, every pariſh bars all acceſs to any intruder, nor are any allowed to ſettle who were not born there. And if a young fellow takes a fancy for a girl, unleſs his father gives him a part of his houſe, it is next to impoſſible for him to obtain one; ſo that in many caſes marriages are rendered impracticable, that would otherwiſe have been eaſy—population is thus diſcouraged—domeſtic felicity, and the ſober induſtrious ſentiments which it inſpires, are almoſt unknown—licentiouſneſs neceſſarily takes place—the ſexes, in ſpite of every bar, will ſometimes meet, and although few children are produced, yet even theſe few, bred up without that care that is uſually beſtowed upon legitimate children, tend to corrupt the morals of the remaining few ſtill more and more—without home, or family or friends, what have they to care for? unconcerned for the preſent, and indifferent as to the future, they ſerve only to communicate to others their vices, and the miſeries that naturally follow them.

Thus have I ſhewn, that this law has a natural tendency to corrupt the hearts of thoſe who are intruſted with the collection and diſtribution of this tax, and of rendering them the means of diſſeminating idleneſs and extravagance among their neighbours:—that it is a mean of rendering the lower claſs of people leſs attentive to their affairs, leſs ſober, and more addicted to diſſipation than they would otherwiſe be:—that it becomes an intolerable burden upon the honeſt houſeholder, to which no poſſible bounds can be aſſigned, as it is ſtill increaſing with ſuch a rapid progreſs as juſtly to alarm every perſon of reflection who conſiders it:—that it ſtrongly tends to diſcourage matrimony, and with it population *, the moſt powerful preſervative

† *Almoſt all the poor drink tea twice a day*, ib. P. 334.

* *A ſtranger who was to be informed of this law, and that for preventing matrimony between perſons of any rank, but under the circumſtances mentioned therein, would naturally conclude that England, like the antient ſtates of Greece, or modern China, was overburdened with inhabitants, and that theſe laws had been wiſely framed to prevent the too great increaſe of the inhabitants, being leſs ſhocking to nature, and infinitely better calculated for that purpoſe, than the permiſſion to expoſe children, that was and is allowed for that end.—*

If England feels any inconvenience from the exceſs of its inhabitants, let

of the ſtate; to introduce among the lower claſs of people unbounded licentiouſneſs, and to deſtroy all ideas of moral rectitude among them, and delicacy of ſentiment whatever:—theſe are a few of the bad conſequences that muſt always be expected from the influence of this law; and as they ſtrike at the very root of all order and happineſs in ſociety, it is to be hoped that my countrymen will not allow themſelves to be heedleſsly put under ſuch an inſufferable yoke of bondage as this muſt prove to them and their children, and their children's children, if it ſhould at any time be ſuffered to paſs into a law.

Yours, &c. ALCIBIADES.

On the common Idea of the Character of a GENTLEMAN.

To the PUBLISHER *of the* WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

SIR,

ONE great cauſe of diſagreement among mankind is, their not having fixed and determinate ideas for the ſame words. This you will, perhaps, ſay is a ſtale obſervation; I grant it; and only produce it as an introduction to what follows.

The epithet *free-thinker* is not more abſurd than the term *gentleman*, by a too indiſcriminate application of the word. An ingenious writer has vindicated the former in a periodical paper which bore that title, and I ſhall make it my buſineſs to conſider the latter.

A real gentleman is certainly a moſt amiable character: but, as that word is promiſcuouſly applied, and generally underſtood, it as certainly often implies ſuch qualities as are rather a reproach to the poſſeſſor, than any mark of intrinſic merit.

Any man, of whatever ſtation, who, with natural good ſenſe, poſſeſſes alſo an honeſt heart, and who has theſe eſſentials poliſhed by a ſweetneſs of behaviour, which is better underſtood than expreſſed, this man is, in my eſtimation, the true gentleman, whether he be a knight, or a ticket porter, a lord, or a journeyman—taylor. Acquired accompliſhments adorn, but do not conſtitute the gentleman.

It is true, a perſon runs great chance of diſappointment who ſhould ſearch for gentlemen among working brick-layers, ſmiths, and other laborious profeſſions, ſince, in thoſe employments, the mind being confined to the contemplation of the objects of their induſtry, is neceſſarily very narrow, contracts a rigidity or ruſt for want of extenſion, or, by aſſociating with the depraved, is too often vitiated itſelf. But what then? There is no rule without exceptions, however ſeldom they appear; and true genius will burſt through all theſe obſtacles which overpower little minds, and choak up ordinary capacities.

The acquirements of mankind, it is true, differ generally in proportion as their ſituation is more or leſs proſperous: thus many a good underſtanding is uncultivated, and many a head is filled with the ſciences to as little purpoſe as if they were ſtuffed with ſaw-duſt. But whether that be the caſe or not, due allowance ought to be made for the diſadvantages of a confined ſphere of activity. Let the readers of Sir Charles Grandiſon only change his ſituation, and conceive him with a leathern apron about him, the conſequence would be, that great part of thoſe bright qualities they admire in the man of fortune would not appear, but lie dormant in the ſhoemaker merely for want of opportunities for exertion.

I know not whether I have worked any conviction in my readers, but I have firmly perſuaded myſelf that there are men in all degrees of life who merit the appellation of gentlemen.

I will not attempt the deſcription of many who claim the diſtinction of gentlemen, and currently paſs for ſuch.

The firſt requiſite for a gentleman is either an independent fortune, a penſion at court, the bar, pulpit, or camp, or a ſubſiſtence procured by ſome of the va-

them prevent them from increaſing: but few will ſay that this is the caſe with Scotland; and even if it was ſo, it would be prudent, before we adopted this law, to try what effect the emigrations to America may produce in that reſpect, as it is probable, if it continues for a ſhort time, we will not be much troubled with ſupernumerary people. But if, after a time, it ſhall be found that theſe emigrations ceaſe, this law might then be allowed to take place, which would very quickly accompliſh the deſireable work of rendering our country an uninhabited deſart.

rious dark means, implied when we say of any one, *nobody knows how he lives*; every one in these capacities arrogating that honourary distinction; for your gentleman scorns to merit his bread by any useful manual occupation, or to acknowledge any as belonging to the fraternity who does.

By idleness your gentleman preserves his limbs supple and delicate, and attains that easy, careless air, that negligent swing of the arms, and that graceful step, which are considered as essentials to gentility. That this is matter of fact is evident, seeing many a worthy person, without these accomplishments, is stigmatized by the name of a clown, while with them many a worthless rascal is respected as a fine gentleman.

Another needful article is, that lofty assurance in behaviour which independence confers, and which others assume for that very reason. This, with gay fantastical cloaths, attracts regard; and if a few round oaths are judiciously interspersed in conversation, they give more dignity and life to it, and enable a gentleman to talk nonsense with a tolerable grace.

A gentleman passes his time at horseraces, theatres, and bagnios, that he may be esteemed a knowing one, a critic, and a man of gallantry. In brief, for I am tired with so insignificant a subject, a current gentleman is the more completely so the more he is devoted to pleasure; and the more he shews, by continually humming the fag-ends of tunes, that he is as much above thinking as above doing any thing to a good purpose; and the best word that any one of the common fry of gentlemen deserve, is, that as he is a worthless, it is well if he is a harmless animal; too many of them being very mischievous ones.

Yours, &c. DESKFORDIENSIS.

September 20.

On the Present AGE.

To the PUBLISHER *of the* WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

SIR.

CEASE ye peevish snarlers! while I point out to the astonished universe the prerogatives of the present age. Wherever I turn my eyes heroes innumerable appear. I am to sing the praises of men; may tattling echo carry to a distance the sound of my voice!

And thou, O Fame! composed of so many tongues, cease not to publish the praises of our times in all places, and never become tired in relating the advantages that we enjoy. At present the priest lives conformably to his doctrine; the Pope is always the servant of servants; the warrior is ever attentive to the justice of the cause in which he is engaged; the merchant, ignorant of chicane, is intirely governed by probity and honour.

Nothing can surpass the number of our disinterested Nabobs, if it be not that of their modest and scrupulous advocates, who scarce betray the cause of humanity or their country above once or twice in a year. And what age could ever equal the present in that unrivalled warmth of patriotism, and unbiassed zeal for the public good, which, setting aside all party spirit, and every view to private emolument, pants for the good of the public, and for that alone?

How fruitful is the republic of letters in men of genius of the first rank! Our poets are philosophers, our philosophers busied only in the search of truth, and discoveries useful to mankind. Our authors can be accused of no other fault except with being too modest; of being too slow to write, and of composing too little.

What forests of laurels do I see spring up for you ye sovereign princes!—Vicegerents of the *most high* on earth, with what impartial hands do you hold the balance of equity! The weak, while under the protection of treaties guaranteed by you, may sleep in security. Illustrious monarchs, ye would be gods if you could become immortal! But who can recount your eminent qualities? You have appropriated to yourselves all the virtues, and leave to us none other but that of patience and resignation to your all-wise decrees.

Grand by their dignities, but still more grand by the sublimity of their genius, able ministers are found surrounding the throne in every country. Princes, besides, know by themselves or mistresses how to govern: the art of governing is easy, as it is well known to consist intirely in the puissance of the hand that holds the sceptre.

The English, affable and complaisant, are attentive and kind to strangers:—The French, modest and unassuming, adopt the manners of their agreeable

neighbours:—The Germans, ſprightly and gay, invent.—Let us praiſe the liberty, humility, and induſtry that reign in the provinces of *Iberia*; let us alſo praiſe the good faith of the Dutch, and their noble proceedings with regard to commerce.

How great is the glory with which we Chriſtians are adorned! By a thouſand indirect courſes we fail not, in *all caſes*, to arrive at the ſanctuary of honour. That ſacred temple, of ſuch difficulty of acceſs to the antients, whoſe narrow entrance was concealed behind the temple of virtue, which was guarded by ſurly cenſors, is now, like the temple of Janus, ſet open to every one who chuſes to enter.

I will not praiſe the Turks, yet they begin to reſemble us; already drinking wine, they have learned, *like us*, to keep their oaths, and to ſpeak their thoughts, *as we do*, without equivocation or reſerve.

If then our age has already ſo many advantages, what will be thoſe of that which ſhall ſucceed it? O Poſterity! what cauſe haſt thou to be proud of thy fortune? Thou ſhalt ſee ſtill greater prodigies than theſe!

Yours, &c. G. S——.

To the PUBLISHER *of the* WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

SIR,

THE manufactures of Great Britain are now arrived at a conſiderable degree of perfection. In ſome of its branches we excel other nations, in others we are far outdone. Induſtry and application being the high road to perfection in thoſe arts, that we have trode with aſſiduity and diligence; notwithſtanding which, it is generally allowed that the linen manufacture is at preſent much on the decline.

The cauſes of this decline, in my apprehenſion, are too apparent to need much inveſtigation. They may be reduced to theſe three. 1. The great increaſe of the value of lands. 2. The late wound given to credit. 3. And the great fall in the price of India muſlins.

To the firſt of theſe we may aſcribe the remarkable advance in the price of all the neceſſaries of life, by which the expence of manufacturing our goods is advanced 50 *per cent.* within theſe thirty years; ſo that our neighbours on the continent can underſell us at every foreign market, even in Great Britain itſelf, notwithſtanding the duties impoſed upon their goods imported. From hence we diſcover how neceſſary it is for the legiſlative body to prevent the too great value of the neceſſaries of life in this commercial country. This evil, if not remedied, may baniſh the manufactures out of Britain. There are recent inſtances of particular branches being removed from one part of the iſland to another upon this very account; the employers being obliged to go to thoſe parts of the country where they can have their work done on the loweſt terms. The ſilk-gauze branch was of late years removed from London to Paiſley; and there is already ſome appearance of its removal from this place to the country adjacent. The ribband branch is in a fair way to be removed from Coventry to this part of the country. It is truly amazing that our repreſentatives ſhould have judged ſo ill in framing that clauſe of the late corn-act relative to Scotland, which, if I underſtand it aright, will ſpeedily raiſe the price of oat-meal to 15 d. per peck. It is well known that North Britain does not produce grain nearly ſufficient to ſupply the inhabitants, even when we have the beſt crops; and had we not been ſupplied from Ireland with oats and oat-meal, there would not only have been a dearth, but a famine in our land. What muſt the conſequence be, if no importation be allowed from Ireland until our markets exceed 16s. per boll, Troy weight?—The labouring poor will be obliged to fly from this unhoſpitable clime, to ſome country where they may find a richer ſoil to manure, or better wages in proportion to their outgivings. Vaſt numbers have already emigrated from this country; and it is probable, if ſuch an act ſtand unrepealed, emigrations are but beginning.

The next cauſe I aſſign for the preſent decline of the linen manufacture, is the late wound given to public credit, and the general ſtagnation of trade in conſequence of it. This, though the cauſe of preſent diſtreſs, may prove the cauſe of future benefits. The enterpriſing ſpirit of our countrymen puſhed them on to carry buſineſs to a greater extent than their capital could reach; for which reaſon caſh accounts were applied for from the banks, and obtained. This found not ſufficient, the bill trade was ſet on foot, by means of which they were en-

bled further to extend their trade; and, fo long as their bills were regularly difcounted and paid, by means of their correfpondents redrawing upon them, they were enabled to carry on bufinefs. This fpirit of enterprife was not confined to the merchants and manufacturers, but extended itfelf to the farmers and graziers likewife, who obtained cafh accounts from a late celebrated bank, by which means they purchafed eftates, and cattle for grazing, and improved their farms. This fcheme was no way friendly to the banking bufinefs; the notes iffued were foon returned; and they, having not the fame occafion for negociating as the trader, detained the money at intereft. Thefe practices, with other pieces of mifmanagement, concurring with the great failures in the metropolis, foon ruined their credit with the bank of England: This being the cafe, down tumbled the whole fabric: a general run is made upon the banks, which they are unable immediately to anfwer. They call in their cafh accounts; then the credit of many farmers, graziers and traders is ruined, and they become bankrupts; but it at the fame time opens the eyes of the country in general, to fee the error of trading to fuch an extent upon fuch a flippery foundation, and will have a tendency to make them more cautious for the future.

The third caufe I affign for the prefent decline of the linen manufacture, is the great fall in the price of India muflins. Thefe goods come at fuch a low price to the conftumers, that they are now generally ufed in place of thofe lawns and cambrics made in Scotland, to the great hurt of that manufacture. It is no uncommon thing to fee the manufacturers wives and daughters dreffed in a fuit of India muflins, and their own manufacture ftored up in the ware-room. So far does fafhion prevail at this day.

The manufacture of lawns, figured and plain, cambrics and bordered handkerchiefs, employed a vaft number of hands, the materials ufed being all the product of our own country, and go through a great number of operations before they are ready for fale. This branch is remarkably on the decline.—After all, it may be afked, what more aid can the country reafonably expect, or the legiflature give, befide what is given already for the encouragement of the linen-manufacture.

True, there is a duty impofed upon all foreign linens imported, but then there is a drawback of near the fame duty allowed when exported; fo that large quantities are daily imported for the very purpofe of exporting to our colonies. When that act was made, the linen-manufacture was then in its infancy, and could not fupply the exporters demands; now they certainly can. There is likewife a duty upon all foreign threads imported of two and feven pence the pound weight, which prevents the foreigners from rivalling us with their coarfe threads in this country; but then they have almoft the whole trade of the fine thread; for which reafon, would it not be a great benefit to the country, if the duty impofed was laid upon the thread according to its value, not according to its weight, there being thread imported worth 5 l. per pound, and fome not worth 5 s.

Further, there is a heavy duty impofed upon all foap, both foreign and home-made. The foreign is 3 d. upon each pound, the home-made is 1½ d. Ought not this to be given in drawback upon what of it is ufed in the whitening linen-cloth, thread or yarn, cotton or cotton-cloth; for here, indeed, there is a drawback allowed of an halfpenny per pound upon what is ufed in the whitening of linen-cloth in pieces for fale; but is it not neceffary, and but reafonable, that a drawback of the whole duty fhould extend to all thofe articles, at leaft the fame drawback which is allowed upon what is ufed in the woolen manufacture, which is one penny and eight-twelfths upon foreign, and ten-twelfths of a penny on each pound home-made?

The prefent diftreffed ftate of the linen-manufacture certainly calls aloud for parliamentary aid: for this purpofe, it is undoubtedly incumbent upon every freeholder to think ferioufly of it, and to join together in inftructing their commiffioners to exert themfelves during the next feffion of parliament for that purpofe.

Yours, &c.

Paifley, Oct. 1. W. C.

To the PUBLISHER *of the* WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

SIR,

I SIGNIFIED in the poftfcript of my letter of yefterday, that I did not think it *worth while* to take any particular notice of the cenforious production of your new correfpondent Honeftus *ju-*

nior, as I imagined that ſuch a production would manifeſtly appear to every intelligent reader, to have been dictated by the *lying* pen of malevolence and enmity, whereby the intended ignominy would recoil upon the author; and as I did not in the leaſt anticipate that the author would be ſuppoſed to be *myſelf*, I was this morning, however, informed by ſome of my friends, that ſuch a ſuſpicion prevailed; wherefore I find myſelf neceſſitated *ſolemnly to declare*, that I never was concerned, directly or indirectly, ſolely or affiſtingly, either in the fabrication, or the writing of the ſaid eſſay, nor had the leaſt knowledge of ſuch a piece being written, till I was informed of it's being *already* forwarded by the poſt, the motto having been viſible to the eye of the inſpector. The preceding aſſertion will be corroborated by the reader's referring to the blue cover of the antecedent Magazine (No. xii.), where you have judiciouſly obſerved, that "Honeſtus" (the author of the before-mentioned paper, "ought to 'have choſen *another ſignature* for his '*luſus ingenii*. If he belongs to the 'family *at all* (of the *original* HONESTUS), he has only a title to *junior*." It was *this* obſervation that prevented my conceiving that ſuch a production would be aſcribed to *me before* it's appearance, and it was the *nature* of it that continued to deceive me *after it appeared*. Indeed, it is very *inconſiſtent* for any one to ſuppoſe, that the *wiſe* and *ſpirited* HONESTUS (who has always *juſtly* claimed the ſuperiority of all your other correſpondents), would write ſuch a ſatire upon *himſelf*, or give ſuch a demeaning deſcription of his genealogy:—ſuch a ſuppoſition is very foreign to the genuine characteriſtic of HONESTUS, nor does it coincide with the general tenor of his writings. I have the more forcibly diſowned ſuch a production, becauſe the author of it, by adopting *my ſignature*, and imitating my manner of *dating* my letters, evidently intended to have it paſs for one of *my* compoſitions. I am ſorry he could not employ himſelf better on the *ſabbath-day*.—This diſplays him to be an *incorrigible ſinner*.

However much my *own* writings may have been *miſconceived* by *phlegmatic* and *illiterate* readers, and ſuch as were naturally prejudiced againſt the writer, I have therein always expreſſed the *greateſt regard* for my town's people in general, as well as the place itſelf. And indeed, I never was in any principal part of England, where I have not met with travellers who have ſpoke largely in favour of both. The proverb, *No general rule without exception*, is always to be conceived, as well on this, as other occaſions; for there are, doubtleſs, ſome of thoſe *worthleſs exotics* amongſt us, as well as natives, that are to be found in every other place, and whom I ſhall never be ſo partial as to defend. —The *pureſt* ſoil is not altogether free from *weeds*.—By one of the aforeſaid *exotics*, the production I am ſpeaking of, was moſt probably written.

I ſhall ſay nothing of the origin of this place, as a complete hiſtory of it is now preparing for the preſs, but content myſelf with obſerving, that the generality of temporary reſidents in it, and ſuch of them as have reſided in various *other* places, are ſo much taken with it, that they always leave it *with reluctance*.—It is honoured with the moſt favourable deſcription in all geographical works; being a well-compacted, regular-built town, and the ſtreets much cleaner than trading places are generally found to be. It is true, indeed, that our church has no *ſteeple* to it (the notice of which is very *poor ſatire*), but we have a very *elegant* one affixed to our town houſe, embelliſhed with a coat of arms, emblematical of the origin of the place, and which are admired by every ſpectator.

The valour and independent ſpirit of its inhabitants, are very conſpicuous in hiſtory, having frequently exerted themſelves ſo far in the defence of their liberty and properties, as to ſhut the gates againſt the kings of both the neighbouring kingdoms, when they have found themſelves unlawfully invaded;——and there are no people who have diſplayed more loyalty to their governing princes, having more than once *voluntarily*, and at their *own expence*, taken up arms in ſupport of the government.—Neither is it true (as this invidious writer has inſinuated), that either the people generally purſue the buſineſs of fiſhing, or chiefly ſubſiſt on this article of proviſion, it being well known to all travellers, that our butcher-market is always *well-ſtocked* with *plenty* of the *very beſt* of all kinds of meat, ſo good, that travellers affirm the meat of very few places, in either of the united kingdoms, to be equal to

it.—Some ſtrangers now in town, who have travelled through many places, confirmed this account laſt market-day.

Our malevolent author alſo affects a contempt of the place, by aſſerting its belonging to *both* kingdoms, yet that it is reckoned a part of *neither*. By this aſſertion, he diſplays his ignorance of the Britiſh conſtitution, or his propenſity to ſacrifice truth to gratify his malice. The laws of England are the eſtabliſhed laws of this place; *ſo far* it belongs to England, and England *only*; but cannot be ſaid (as the *lying* author aſſerts) to belong to *both* kingdoms (which I have an equal veneration for): and that it is not included in either (which is really the caſe), rather *exalts* than degrades it, being, as it were, a kingdom of itſelf; and hence all the Engliſh acts of parliament, and proclamations for the holding public feſtivals, &c. expreſs their being obſerved at the ſame time "throughout "that part of Great Britain called Eng"land, the dominion of Wales, and "our town of Berwick-upon-Tweed," —which is *diſtinguiſhed* with peculiar privileges, which are properly executed. —Vice here meets with no encouragement, but its votaries (among the number of which we may include our author) are permitted to tranſgreſs with impunity. The manners of the natives are as refined as at Weſtminſter, and they are remarkably hoſpitable and obliging to ſtrangers.—Few places produce ſuch handſome or amiable *fair-ones*.

I ſhould not have expatiated ſo largely as I have done, but to prevent thoſe erroneous ideas which ſtrangers and foreigners are wont to imbibe from the unfair repreſentations, and unmerited aſperſions of ſuch writers as Honeſtus *junior*, and with which ideas he evidently wiſhes to prepoſſeſs them. Such attempts have been even made upon *myſelf* by thoſe who forget the *penetration* and *integrity* of HONESTUS.—Such will ever find themſelves *diſappointed*.

I ſhall conclude with aſſerting, that I have ever had, and ſhall always have the *greateſt veneration* for the place of my nativity, and its general inhabitants,—whoſe intereſts I ſhall conſtantly endeavour to unite, and to promote that congenial harmony which may conduce to their mutual welfare.——Such are the prevailing ſentiments—ſuch the natural diſpoſition of their humble ſervant,

Sept. 28. HONESTUS.

On the THEATRE; *with a particular View to* One *lately opened at* ABERDEEN.

LETTER I.

To the PUBLISHER *of the* WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

SIR,

TO trace the progreſs of ſociety from its rudeſt and moſt undiſciplined beginnings to its moſt perfect cultivation, and moſt elegant refinement; by what means it aſcends to its higheſt elevation and grandeur, and from what cauſes it ſinks into its loweſt and moſt feeble ſtate, is, perhaps, none of the leaſt ingenious applications of the human faculties. But however penetrating our inveſtigations, or however judicious our obſervations on this ſubject may be, they are ſeldom attended with any important advantage. States are not modelled by them: they are not ſufficient to eſtabliſh them upon an immoveable baſis. The fact is, that as communities riſe, and grow into a particular form, from cauſes that cannot poſſibly be traced, or diſcerned with any certainty, they carry in them, as every thing human doth, the ſeeds of their own diſſolution; ſo that political inſtitutions, to whatever vigour they may appear to have arrived, are capable only of a certain degree of duration; they fall by the abuſe of the very means by which they had acquired their higheſt improvement, their greateſt ſplendor, and their moſt extenſive empire.—Should their internal vigour continue, they are neceſſarily ſubjected, in the order of providence, to a thouſand external injuries, that firſt inſenſibly weaken, and at laſt totally ſubvert them. The greateſt danger, and moſt certain ruin of every political conſtitution, however, ariſes either from its own internal ſtructure, or an imperceptible tranſition from one miſtake or evil to another. The following, at leaſt, may be affirmed as certain forerunners of the ruin of every ſtate.—When a people become venal in their legiſlative capacity: when laws are multiplied without adequate cauſes, and are never intended to be put ſtrictly into execution: when the public debt riſes to a ſum ſuperior to the whole money ſpecies in a kingdom, and the intereſt of this debt is paid from taxes laid upon the ſubject, or from public lotteries, the *laſt* and moſt *unworthy* effort of raiſing money: when luxury hath ſpread its un-

happy contagion among the lower claſs: when oaths have loſt all their reverence and ſecurity: when the clergy, under the pretence of throwing off thoſe ſhackles in which prejudices or ſuperſtition had formerly bound their order, are diſpoſed to make every ſubmiſſion that licentiouſneſs can demand, and to adopt every mode in which levity or folly exhibit themſelves. I ſhall only add, when trading and manufacturing towns ſhall attempt to introduce and eſtabliſh thoſe faſhionable and expenſive amuſements that ingroſs the minds, and diſſipate the attention of rich and great cities.

It is not intended to intrude upon your ſpace, or the privilege of your more valuable correſpondents, ſo far as to analyſe each of theſe: I have been led to this general view from the *laſt* alone; and to it, from the project lately ſet on foot of opening a theatre at Aberdeen.

Whether the theatre, under the management of men of real worth, capacity, and genius, and conducted by the ſtricteſt rules of decorum and virtue, would prove an advantage to ſociety, by correcting and poliſhing its manners, improving the public taſte, and promoting more juſt and liberal ſentiments, will hardly admit of a queſtion. But it is no leſs certain, that it never was eſtabliſhed on this bottom, nor generally formed with this view. Such a plan, though ſupported and recommended by all the powers of oratory, all the force of ſentiment, and all the graces and animation of action, would be but little reliſhed: it would ill ſuit the genius of thoſe whoſe heads are turned for public amuſement; it would appear at beſt but a mere elegant ſort of preaching, and ſhare the ſame fate of being neglected as only fit for dozing moraliſts.—— But ſuppoſing the taſte and manners of any age could be ſo much corrected and improved, as neither to reliſh nor encourage any exhibition from the ſtage but what ſeemed to have an immediate tendency to mend the heart, one thing, of which we can entertain no probable hopes, would appear indiſpenſibly neceſſary to it, that plays and players ſhould be rendered independent of the caprice and vitiated taſte of the public; for while authors write, and players act for bread, we are to expect nothing but what is agreeable to the ſentiments of thoſe who have moſt money to throw away, or are moſt diſpoſed to throw it away upon their pleaſures; and theſe are the wild and the diſſipated. Such a regulation would indeed render plays leſs common, and play houſes leſs frequent; but it may be modeſtly affirmed, that thence no real injury would enſue to the public.

It ought to be acknowledged at the ſame time, that there are ſeveral comedies happily formed, by employing the juſteſt ridicule and moſt poignant ſatire in their proper province, to expoſe the foibles and oddities of certain abſurd characters, and the more hurtful vices of others; and that many tragedies are admirably fitted to inſpire the nobleſt and moſt ſublime ſentiments of virtue. But, upon the whole, the one is mixed with ſo much ribbaldry and looſe wit, and the other with ſo many romantic and falſe ideas, that they tend rather to corrupt the minds, and pervert the natural and juſt ſentiments of the heart, than to correct thoſe foibles, reform thoſe vices, or to awaken an emulation of imitating ſuch exalted models, which confeſſedly exceed the ordinary ſtandard of humanity.

In great cities it may be admitted, however, that the theatre is neceſſary: neceſſary, as a leſſer evil may be to prevent a greater. Where thouſands of rank and fortune meet together, directed by no principle but the impulſe of their paſſions, and employed in no occupation but the means of gratifying them, whatever are the leaſt hurtful amuſements to ſociety are the moſt eligible: he, therefore, who throws away ſo much money and time upon the theatre, or any ſimilar diverſion, is ſurely much better employed than at the gaming-table, or a nocturnal debauch. In the one caſe, at leaſt, there is a poſſibility that ſome worthy ſentiment may ſeize his attention, and leave ſome uſeful impreſſions upon him; or he may be innocently employed in gratifying his taſte; but, in the other, he is in danger of loſing his money, his honeſty, and his underſtanding. But whatever plea may be offered for the ſtage in rich and great cities, towns, where the inhabitants may properly be conſidered under the denomination of merchants, manufacturers, or mechanics, furniſh inſurmountable objections againſt it.

In great cities, thoſe who meet together are generally unknown to one another. In towns, ſuch as Aberdeen, they are all neighbours, friends or acquain-

tances. Hence many evils arife. Without regard to ability, or their particular ſituation in life, they are, in a manner, conſtrained by their mutual habits, and the irreſiſtible force of example, to follow the track of a leading few: or, if there are ſome who ſhould otherways have reſolution enough to be ſingular, there is ſuch an intimate connection among the youth of both ſexes, ſuch emulation, ſuch a paſſion for dreſs and nocturnal aſſemblies, that parents, what through importunity, what through miſtaken affection, what through eaſineſs of temper, and regard to domeſtic peace, are at laſt brought into *their* meaſures, and unavoidably involved in expence, which their circumſtances in life can ill ſupport, without running into debt, or imprudently ſquandering away thoſe very funds that are neceſſary, and deſigned as a decent proviſion for their families: and the worſt of it is, while theſe funds are fooliſhly laviſhed, which are neceſſary as a future eſtabliſhment for children, and to enable them to act with propriety and decency for themſelves, they acquire a taſte for vanity and extravagance, which ſeldom fails to lay the foundation of their unhappineſs through life. They are led, in the mean while, merely to conſult their own humours, and make what they account the moſt genteel appearance, without regard to conſequences; and thus, when they come to ſtand upon their own bottom, they are totally void of every idea ſuited to their ſtations: their heads have been turned to the gaieties of life—to reading and repeating ſcrapes from plays, with what they imagine a good grace; to dreſs and foppery; and they are rendered unfit for every thing domeſtic, ſober, or ſerious. Such ideas, and ſuch a mode of life may, perhaps, involve no ſenſible inconvenience in it with regard to thoſe of high rank or opulent fortunes, but the midling claſs are infallibly ruined by it.

Will it be thought injurious or indelicate to mention another evil, which, if not a neceſſary, is at leaſt not an improbable effect of the ſtage. As the far greater number, and certainly the moſt acceptable of our plays, abound in love ſcenes, wrought up by all the powers of a warm imagination and poetic diction, to the higheſt pitch of enthuſiaſtic ardour, they have a natural tendency to inflame the paſſions of youth: The ſevereſt virtue is, perhaps, in danger of being diſarmed of its moſt watchful guard: Every thing gay and inſinuating: the language, the pathos, the air, the repreſentation, the objects that preſent themſelves—all unite their influence, and ſteal ſoftly and inſenſibly upon the heart: Perhaps no degree of virtue is a ſufficient ſecurity, if left to itſelf, ſurrounded with certain temptations, and to ſtruggle againſt certain evils; but, when the habits of virtue are yet unconfirmed, and the mind is equally unaccuſtomed to the diſcipline of its own paſſions, and unacquainted with the toils in which it is in danger of being caught; while it glows with a ſenſibility untutored by experience, and ready to admit of impreſſions from every ſtriking repreſentation—the theatre is a dangerous ſcene. It may be ſaid; in the loweſt view, that, if the ſtage doth not introduce and encourage criminal intrigue, it lays the foundation of wild romantic love, by which both parties are equal ſufferers; unhinging the mind in the mean time—begetting viſionary dreams of love-flames—raptures—and of ſomething beyond the capacity of human bliſs, and preventing thoſe ſober, ſedate, and prudent connections between the ſexes, upon which their future happineſs depends. This, it is acknowledged, is not peculiar to the theatre in little towns only, but it is there more difficult to be conceal'd, and more ſenſibly felt.

There is ſtill a further evil attending the theatre in little towns. As it has a natural tendency to open the mind, to diſpel every gloomy idea, and to awaken the ſpirit of frolic and humour, it ſeldom fails to introduce evening cabals and collations; where, regardleſs of the cares of life, domeſtic or perſonal concerns, the glaſs circulates, and plays and players become the learned ſubject of converſation and criticiſm. One becomes a poet, another a mimic, and a third, after many good natured and ſage remarks on the character and dreſs of females who graced the boxes, concludes with a notable drunken or obſcene ſong, which produces a loud burſt of merriment; and it is odds but the whole iſſues in the company's ſtaggering home, after having expended more at the tavern than the play houſe. In this view, which is far from being an improbable one, the theatre in little towns has an evident tendency to debauch the morals and diſſipate the mind; for the company, who have been ſo happy together, will naturally renew their

appointment for the ſtage and the bottle. Thoſe who were formerly ſober, domeſtic, and induſtrious, will be relaxed, and acquire bad habits; and thoſe whoſe minds were already turned to amuſement and idle company, will be in danger of being ruined beyond all poſſibility of retrieve. In one ſentence, inſtead of a ſedate, diſcreet, and active people, laudably occupied in their reſpective ſtations, you ſhall obſerve, that, from the one end of the town to the other, a giddy ferment hath ſpread its infection.

Yours, &c. URBANUS.

Banks of Spey, Sept. 28.

A Card-Table Anecdote.

MANY excellent letters have been written to expoſe the folly and danger of gaming: this vice, nevertheleſs, prevails as forcibly as ever. The watering places may be conſidered as ſo many ſeminaries for rearing the young of both ſexes to this pernicious practice; and, under the pretence of bathing and drinking, they waſh away all their morals, and leave nothing in their ſtead but a violent itch for gambling. The four knaves and the dice-box have been the cauſes of more quarrels, than ever the king of Pruſſia, and all the monarchs of Europe have been engaged in from the thirſt of conqueſt. As to the fair ſex, their riſk is ſtill greater; they riſk their money by play, their beauty by vigils, and their honour by both. Half the profeſſed women of gallantry have commenced demi-reps from a run of ill luck; their pin-money has fallen ſhort, and they have ſtaked themſelves to recruit it. Could a fine woman ſee herſelf in thoſe unguarded moments, when a very bad hand, after a ſeries of ill-fortune has been dealt by her, ſhe would never after touch a card: and it would be very proper to have whiſt and quadrille looking-glaſſes ſo placed, that it might be impoſſible for every fair gameſter not to ſee her real portrait in the moſt excruciating moments of play. This, moſt probably, would work a ſpeedy cure, as the danger of loſing a lover or a huſband might have ſome influence in thoſe lucid intervals of cards, when love will triumph over fordid intereſt.—Ninon de L'Enclos was once playing at ombre, when the cards ran moſt wickedly againſt her: ſhe had changed colour two or three times, and could not help biting her lips to preſerve her temper; but no ſooner did an Abbe, who was then her admirer, enter the room, than ſhe flung down her cards and ſhammed a ſwoon. Being retired with her lover, ſhe pleaſantly ſaid, "J'ai 'perdu mon argent, c'eſt vrai, mais j'au-'rois beaucoup plus perdu, ſi vous m'a-'viez vu jouer." "I have loſt my money, 'it is true, but I ſhould have loſt much 'more if you had ſeen me play." This lady, who underſtood the art of captivating equal to any of her ſex, was certainly right in her conjecture, that the Abbe might have taken a diſguſt had he ſeen her agitated by her ill-fortune; and this may ſerve as an uſeful leſſon to the ladies upon ſimilar occaſions.

No Card Player.

To the PUBLISHER *of the* WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

SIR,

SOME time ago, I obſerved a propoſal in your Magazine, recommended by STEPHEN STANDISH, with which I wonder much you have not thought proper to comply. Every day convinces me of the utility of a DUNCE's DEN; and, humbly hoping you will ſpeedily aſſign a few pages of your work for that purpoſe, I have ſent you incloſed an epiſtle of the heroi-paſſionate, tragi-ſtupenduous ſtile, which accidentally fell in my way in one of my evening peregrinations.——The propriety of having ſuch a notable performance at the head of that department, it were idle to demonſtrate: ſuffice it to obſerve, that the love-ſick ſwain who wrote it ſeems to poſſeſs all the delicacy, tenderneſs and ſublimity of the celebrated Manchean knight, whoſe adventures are read with rapture by every admirer of genuine chivalry, which, to the honour of our days, ſeems to revive with redoubled luſtre.

Yours, &c. SANCHO.

Sept. 18. 1773.

THE DUNCE's DEN.

To Miſs —— —— at E——h.

Amiable Lady,

PARDON the preſumption of a perſon, who, having lately loſt his heart, makes an inquiry for it of one who is

compoſed of nothing but what conſiſts of pure innocence and virtue, and from thence I have this conſolation, that, knowing it is in your poſſeſſion, I queſtion not but you will be noble to it, either for love or pity's ſake. Dear angel, let me viſit, and (if I may be ſo happy) permit me to accompany it, by being regiſtered among the chief of your adorers. I confeſs my encouragements is but ſmall, having attempted nothing yet that might make me capable of your ſmiles, and being acquainted only with your worth; yet, ſuch is the over-ruling power of your beauty, that, though my eyes were but ſeldom bleſſed with a ſight of your peerleſs perfections, my ſoul immediately became a captive to your virtues. Beſides (beauteous lady!), your feature is ſo glorious, that I muſt needs believe that Nature has not one piece of art that ſhe can more boaſt of; nor is there any lady under heaven to whom I owe a greater reverence; and, were your affections but correſpondent to mine, I would vie for happineſs with the proudeſt prince under the bright canopy of the celeſtial orb, but without your love I cannot live; which will be a ſufficient evidence that you were the efficient cauſe of my ruin. You were the firſt to whom I ever became bound in the bonds of love, and hold it as well my duty as intereſt no longer to conceal how much I hon r and admire you. I thought, divine la dy! divers times of acquainting you hereof, but never durſt have the confidence till now, though I had the pleaſure of being ſeveral times in your agreeable company. If my affections have been too powerful for my diſcretion, and ſo compelled me to commit an error, I doubt not but your goodneſs will excuſe it, as it was purely out of a ſincere zeal to do you ſervice; nor could I diſſemble my ambition any longer. Let it ſuffice (thou adorable fair one!), that I am now a priſoner to your beauty; and, from the bar of Cupid, do make it my ſuit, that you pleaſe to honour me with a favourable anſwer to theſe lines, that you may enable me to make a happy reply, or otherwiſe ſuch a one as may be too late eſteemed unhappy, as bearing the doleful tidings of his fate, who vows to be

Yours, though in death,

Mr Publiſher

I AM a member of a Society which examines and Criticizes every literary publication what ever, Your Magazine at laſt meeting was impartially treated as one. It was alledged among us that you fill'd your paper with as Dull and inſipid eſſays as ever were read. One member roſe up in your Defence and ſaid He could excuſe you on that head as it ſeem'd to be your peculiar talent to acquit your ſelf very readily in that way and added that you were certainly a very remarkable genius in that way A Second member roſe up and begg'd leave to infer that the foregoing member's ſpeech that you were a very Clever Dull fellow. The Third member who ſpoke being a Chymiſt obſerved that in a Common Receiver for all the Different ſtreams of wit and humour he was confident before any eſſential Good could be extracted it muſt needs undergo Compleat rectification. A fourth Member remarked that if you Confin'd your magazine to half the ſize you would be half as wiſe again as you were. Another Said the more there was in your magazine there was always the leſs, and vice verſa. The Preſident Deſir'd this Paradox might be explained The Gentleman anſwer'd it was a plain inference from the laſt gentleman's premiſe. Another Doubted much how a man Could earn his Daily bread by a weekly magazine. A Seventh inſiſted that weekly ſhould have been wrong Spell'd and that for weekly ſhould be read the weakly magazine. There is certainly inſinuated a young anatomiſt ſomething wrong about the ſtructure of his brain he does not ſhew the ſmalleſt vein for writing there ſhould be a perpetual iſſue in his head to Carry of bad humour. A Gentleman of the architect tribe obſerved that wher there was any thing Good it was confounded by Som rude unhewen matter of your own by way of Tag or addition Among the laſt a ſhrewd member obſerved that he ſaw no way of removing the Criticiſms but by removing Your magazine. In ſhort Mr Publiſher it was carried that you ſhould reſtrict your Magazine to one ſingle Page as by this you woul not give the the greateſt Pageant of your wiſdom but that of late you have grown ſo bad upon our hands that no body can think of turning over a new leaf with you

Nuncius Veſpertinus

[*A Literal Copy.*]

POETRY.

STANZAS, *written* Extempore, *on hearing that a young Lady* (*Miſs* ORD), *who loſt her Health during the Illneſs of her Mother* (*lately deceaſed*), *was gone to drink the Water of* Cornhill-well, *now returned better. By the Author of the Elegy on the Mother's deceaſe*, Vol. xxi. P. 114.

I.

HOW little knows the inſuſceptive breaſt
The tender pangs the *feeling* heart ſuſtains;
With others ſorrows mutually depreſs'd,
That mourns their ſufferings, and endures their pains!

II.

For many a day the fair AMANDA pin'd
With inward anguiſh, and with latent grief;
Her mother's illneſs rack'd her gentle mind,
To whom in vain ſhe wiſh'd to yield relief.

III.

Oft, as ſhe watch'd her bed with filial care,
Her boſom heav'd the ſympathetic ſigh;
Oft, as each pang renewed her deſpair,
A pitying tear fell trickling from her eye.

IV.

Eſtrang'd to ſleep's refreſhing pow'r, ſhe ſpent
Awake the vigils of each tedious night;
Nor ceas'd her anxious boſom to lament,
When eaſtern ſkies renew'd the early light.

V.

To heav'n ſhe oft prefer'd her gen'rous pray'r,
That ſhe alone might ſhare her *mother's* pains,
A parent's life that Providence would ſpare,
And give her mother-earth her *own* remains.

VI.

But, ah! what numbers cou'd but half expreſs
The poignant feelings which her ſoul poſſeſs'd!
What language paint but half her dire diſtreſs,
When death at laſt her mother's breath ſuppreſs'd!

VII.

The clay-cold urn ALMIRA's corſe received,
While all that knew her ſhed a friendly tear;
But ſtill AMANDA daily—hourly griev'd,
And wiſh'd to join her in a higher ſphere.

VIII.

From hence her health, that long had been impair'd,
While on her ſickly bed ALMIRA lay,
Became ſo weak, a living parent fear'd
Her *own* demiſe would ſwell the tragic lay.

IX.

At length, 'tis ſaid, ſhe's gone to ſeek relief
From a much-fam'd, a ſalutiferous well;
While *time* may tend to mitigate her grief,
And *change of place* each painful thought diſpel.

X.

Heav'n grant that this may be the fair one's fate,
Who *merits* long to ſhare the breath of life!
And ſhou'd ſhe enter the connubial ſtate,
With th' happieſt huſband prove the happieſt wife. W—— R——.

Berwick-upon-Tweed, Sept. 14.

To Sir JOHN FIELDING, *on his Attempt to ſuppreſs the* BEGGAR'S OPERA.

When you cenſure the age,
Be cautious and ſage,
Leſt the courtiers offended ſhould be;
When you mention vice or bribe,
'Tis ſo pat to all the tribe,
Each cries, it was levell'd at me.

GAY.

'Tis woman that ſeduces all mankind.

FILCH.

BENEATH what cheerful region of the ſky
Shall WIT, ſhall HUMOUR, and the MUSES fly?
For OUR'S, a cold, inhoſpitable clime,
Refuſes quarter to the muſe and rhime.
If on her brows an envy'd laurel ſprings,
They ſhake its foliage, crop her growing wings,
That with the PLUMES of virtue wiſely ſoar,
And all the follies of the age explore;
But ſhould old GRUB her rankeſt venom pour,
And ev'ry virtue with a vice deflow'r,
Her verſe is ſacred, JUSTICES agree;
Even JUSTICE FIELDING ſigns the wiſe decree.
Let fortune-dealers, wiſe predictors! tell
From what bright planet *Juſtice Fielding* fell;
AUGUSTA trembles at the awful name;
The darling tongue of liberty is tame,
Baſely confin'd by him in NEWGATE chains,
Nor dare exclaim how harſhly Fielding reigns.
In days when every MERCER has his SCALE,
To tell what PIECES *lack*, how few *prevail*,
I wonder not the low-born menial trade,
By partial JUSTICE has aſide been laid:
For ſhe gives no diſcount for VIRTUE worn,
Her aged joints are without mercy torn.
In vain, O GAY! thy muſe explor'd the way
Of yore to baniſh the Italian lay,
Gave homely numbers ſweet, tho' warmly ſtrong;
The BRITISH CHORUS bleſt the happy ſong;

Thy manly voice and ALBION's then were heard,
Felt by her ſons, and by her ſons rever'd:
EUNUCHS, not MEN, now bear aloft the palm,
And o'er our ſenſes pour lethargic balm.
The STAGE the trueſt mirror is of life;
Our paſſions there revolve in active ſtrife;
Each character is there diſplay'd to view;
Each hates his own, tho' well aſſur'd 'tis true.
No marvel then, that all the world ſhould own,
In PEACHUM's treach'ry *Juſtice Fielding*'s known,
Since thieves ſo common are, and Juſtice you
Thieves to the GALLOWS for reward purſue.
Had GAY by writing rous'd the ſtealing trade,
You'd been leſs active to ſuppreſs your bread;
For, truſt me, when a ROBBER loſes ground,
You loſe your living with your *forty pound*.

'Twas WOMAN firſt that fnatch'd the luring bait,
The tempter taught her to tranſgreſs and eat;
Tho' wrong the deed, her quick compunction told;
She baniſh'd ADAM from an age of GOLD.
When women now tranſgreſs fair virtue's rules,
Men are their pupils, and the ſtews their ſchools;
From ſimple wh—d—m greater ſins began
To ſhoot, to bloom, to center all in man;
Footpads on HOUNSLOW flouriſh here to-day,
The next *old* TYBURN ſweeps them all away;
For woman's falls, the cauſe of every wrong!
Men robb'd and murder'd, thieves at *Tyburn* ſtrung.
In panting breaſts to raiſe the fond alarm,
Make females in the cauſe of virtue warm,
GAY has compar'd them to the ſummer flow'r,
The boaſt and glory of an idle hour;
When cropp'd it falls, ſhrinks, withers, and decays,
And to oblivion dark conſigns its days.

Hath this a power to win the female heart
Back from its vice, from virtue ne'er to part;
If ſo the wayward virgin will reſtore,
And MURDERS, RAPES and PLUNDERS be no more.

Theſe were the lays of him who virtue knew,
Rever'd her dictates, and practis'd them too;
No idle theoriſt in her ſtainleſs ways,
He gave the parent Goddeſs all his days.

O QUEENSBERRY! his beſt and earlieſt friend,
ALL that his wit or learning could commend;
Beſt of PATRONS! the Muſe's only pride!
Still in her pageant ſhalt thou firſt preſide;
No idle pomp that riches can procure,
Sprung at a ſtart, and faded in an hour,
But pageant, laſting as the uncropp'd bay,
That verdant triumphs with the Muſe of GAY.

R. FERGUSSON.

The ENGLISH JUSTICE.

A Pot-belly'd Juſtice, who thought a good feaſt
The beſt thing this world could afford,
Commanded his cook, for that day's repaſt,
A ſturgeon to ſend to his board.

Three parts of the fiſh he diſpatch'd with ſuch ſpeed,
That one ſcarcely can credit the tale;
And, had not a ſickneſs prevented the deed,
This Jonas had eat up the whale.

The doctor arrives—and, with countenance ſad,
Aſſures him aſſiſtance is vain;
And to tell him the truth, "his complaint was ſo bad,
"He would ne'er eat a ſturgeon again."

"If 'tis ſo, quoth the Juſtice, what ſignifies care?
"And now I have only one wiſh,
"That, as you're convinc'd I have no time to ſpare,
"You will ſend me the reſt of my fiſh!"

GRACCHUS.

ADDRESS *of the* Author *to his* Bed.

THOU Bed, in which I firſt began
To be that various creature, Man;
And, when again the fates decree,
The place where I muſt ceaſe to be;
When ſickneſs comes, to *whom* I fly,
To ſoothe my pain, and cloſe my eye;
When cares ſurround me, where I weep,
Or loſe them all in balmy ſleep;
When ſore with labour, whom I court,
And to thy downy breaſt reſort:
Where too extatic joys I find,
When deigns my Delia to be kind,
And, full of love, in all her charms,
Thou giv'ſt the fair one to my arms;
The center thou, where joy and pain,
Diſeaſe and reſt, alternate reign!
Oh! if within thy little ſpace
So many different ſcenes have place,
Leſſons as uſeful ſhalt thou teach
As ſages dictate, churchmen preach;
And man, convinc'd by thee alone,
This great important truth ſhall own,
That thin partitions do divide
The bounds where good and ill reſide;
That nought is perfect here below,
But bliſs ſtill borders upon woe.

R—— B——

THE REVIEW.

A Letter to Sir John Fielding, *Knt. Occaſioned by his extraordinary Requeſt to Mr* Garrick, *for the ſuppreſſion of the* Beggars Opera. *To which is added a Poſtſcript to* D. Garrick, *Eſq; By* William Auguſtus Miles. *Small octavo.*

THIS gentleman cenſures the magiſtrate to whom his letter is addreſſed in a very ſevere manner, for not endeavouring to ſuppreſs the open practice of all manner of vice and immorality in his own neighbourhood, before he made application to Mr Garrick for the ſuppreſſion of the Beggars Opera.

"Your pretence (ſays our author to Sir John) for ſuppreſſing a dramatic entertainment univerſally admired, *is the dangerous effect it is ſuppoſed to have on the morals of the people*, and which, by a calculation, to the full as ingenious as it is unaccountable, you poſitively aſſert, *ſends, every time it is acted, one additional thief to the gallows.* I have adopted your own words to avoid the cenſure of miſrepreſentation; and I hope, however ill-timed this addreſs may be, you will nevertheleſs conſider it as a proof of my impartiality.

"The ſingularity of the requeſt, the character of the perſon who made it, and, above all, the abſolute injuſtice done to the opera, convinced me of the neceſſity of taking it up, not ſo much for the ſatisfaction of refuting an unmerited calumny, as to inquire into the ſincerity and propriety of your conduct.

"I am aware, Sir, of the authority of the magiſtrate over every thing that reſpects the morals and manners of the people, and I regard the man who makes them an object of his attention, as a virtuous citizen; but a diſtinction, at the ſame time, is to be made between the reality of this important virtue and the affectation of it.

"After having ſaid this much, allow me to declare, that conſidering the uniform practice of your life, the continued and uninterrupted ſcenes of profligacy and debauchery in your neighbourhood, and your being intrenched up to your very chin (if I may make uſe of the expreſſion) in all manner of vice, that the requeſt to Mr Garrick was neither decent nor plauſible, and what a man, the leaſt converſant with your character, can hear without a mixture of laughter and indignation. I will not attempt to unravel the myſtery of the calculation by which you have diſcovered that the repreſentation of the Beggars Opera ſends one additional rogue to Tyburn. It is ſuperior to every attempt of Mr Moleſworth.—But to return to my argument: In what manner, Sir, do you ſuppoſe this unfortunate opera acts upon the minds of men? Do you imagine that to *expoſe* vice is the ſame as to *encourage* it? If the manners of the people are affected by dramatic entertainments, Mr Garrick's judicious arrangement, during a long and tedious ſeaſon, proves that he is not leſs ambitious to pleaſe than to improve. If Macheath makes one highwayman, Cato and Brutus may be ſuppoſed, at leaſt, to make each a good citizen; and here we are amply recompenſed for the injury done us by Mr Gay.—The filthy dialogues of Peachum, Lockit, and the reſt of the *dramatis perſonæ*, at the time that they expoſe obſcenity, reprehend it; and an audience (unleſs intirely compoſed of men ſimilar to thoſe who execute your orders) will not be converted to either profligacy or diſſipation by the thoughtleſs gaity of Macheath, or tempted by the indulgence he receives to make an excurſion to Hounſlow.—Almoſt every ſentence of that admirable opera contains a moral; and, in condemning the repreſentation of it, you pay no extraordinary compliment to the character of Mr Garrick as a citizen, nor to the lord chamberlain who licenſed it. It is generally imagined, Sir, that a reformation in your neighbourhood would be the means of leſſening the number of public executions; and, in my opinion, you ought to have begun with Bow-ſtreet, in preference to the theatres, which are not at all ſubject to your juriſdiction.

"It was an impertinent officiouſneſs, proceeding from an overbearing and turbulent diſpoſition, that has diſtinguiſhed and diſgraced you through life. Your pretended regard for the morals of the people is nothing more than parade and oſtentation, and very diſtant from a benevolent concern for the intereſt of ſociety, or the happineſs of individuals.—In this opinion, ſevere as it is, I am warranted by the notorious debauchery of

your neighbourhood—the ſeat of vice and immorality, where the youth of both ſexes are initiated into the rudiments of iniquity, and where it is dangerous for a modeſt woman to appear, even at noon-day.—It is here, Sir, that the inexperienced youth of our ſex receive, in the laſcivious embraces of diſtempered harlots, the firſt impreſſions of vice.—They are introduced to your neighbourhood at a time of life when nature talks to them in a bolder and more perſuaſive language than reaſon; and the giving a full ſcope to the gratification of their paſſions, conſtitutes the principal part of their felicity, while it unhappily lays the foundation of their future ruin.—They are firſt dupes to themſelves, and afterwards to thoſe females who have an intereſt in deceiving them.—Women who are educated in all the various refinements of hypocriſy from their cradle, and may almoſt be ſaid to be hypocrites from nature, as well as education, know how to feign the paſſion of love, and generally ſucceed in their empire over thoſe who get entangled in their net.

"That coquettry for which the ſex is remarked, is of infinite ſervice to them, and the fond fool who believes himſelf the ſole object of a woman's love, ſpares no expence, and regards no danger to preſerve the continuance of it.—In this delirium, in this fever of luſt, he is tempted to violate his obligations to his parents or his maſter, and, deprived of the means of ſupport, has recourſe to expedients as fatal as they are diſgraceful. Thoſe who are not totally abandoned become penſioners to the women who debauched them, and are ſupported by the wages of proſtitution.—Thoſe who are leſs timid, turn pick pockets, and commit petit larceny; their courage and their extravagance increaſe with their ſucceſs, and they venture on till it becomes neceſſary for government to offer a reward for apprehending them.—When they have advanced thus far, and their detection becomes expenſive to the ſtate, and profitable to the magiſtrate, juſtice immediately interferes, and they terminate their wretched career in the very ſpot from whence they ſet out.—Such, Sir, is the melancholy effects of your neighbourhood; and let me aſk you with what decency you can complain of the immoral tendency of a dramatic entertainment, when it may be ſaid, without exaggeration, that eight out of ten who are executed at Tyburn owe their ruin to the fatal and numerous examples of vice about Bow-ſtreet?

A Genuine and Authentic ABSTRACT *of the* BULL *of* CLEMENT XIV. *for ſuppreſſing the Society of* JESUS, *dated at* Rome, *Aug.* 25. 1773. [P. 21.]

HIS HOLINESS then goes on, and with the utmoſt grief of mind obſerves, that theſe, and many other remedies that have been uſed, have never been able, not even in any ſmall degree, to put a ſtop to the many and great diſturbances, accuſations and complaints againſt this Society; nor has this been procured even by the moſt excellent conſtitutions which many Popes have made, prohibiting all ſecular concerns, whether with regard to their miſſions or not; alſo about thoſe weighty diſſenſions and quarrels with their Biſhops, and with other Regular Orders and Communities, both in Europe, Aſia, and America, excited by the Society, to the great ruin of ſouls and amazement of the people; alſo about their interpretation and uſe of certain heatheniſh rites commonly practiſed in certain places, omitting thoſe that are approved by the Catholic Church; alſo about the uſe and interpretation of thoſe opinions which the See Apoſtolic has deſervedly proſcribed as ſcandalous and manifeſtly contrary to good morality; and laſtly, about ſeveral other things of the greateſt importance, and extremely neceſſary for preſerving the purity of the Chriſtian doctrine; from all which, no leſs in this than in the preceding age many evils and inconveniencies have flowed, namely, diſturbances and tumults in ſeveral catholic countries, and perſecutions of the church in ſome provinces both of Europe und Aſia; all which had occaſioned the greateſt grief and ſorrow to his predeceſſors, particularly to Innocent XI. who was compelled by neceſſity to prohibit the ſociety from receiving any more novices; to Innocent XIII. who was forced to threaten them with the ſame puniſhment; and to Benedict XIV. who ordered a viſitation of the ſociety in all the Portugueſe dominions: But all this has been done without the leaſt conſolation to the Holy See, benefit to the ſociety, or good to Chriſtianity; nor has any advantage

been got from the Apoſtolical Briefs of the late Pope Clement XIII. which were extorted from him rather than obtained, and by which the inſtitution is highly commended, and again approved.

After ſo many great ſtorms and ſevere tempeſts, it was hoped that at laſt peace and tranquillity would have been reſtored; but inſtead of that, during the pontificate of the late Pope Clement XIII. the times became ſtill more difficult and troubleſome; for clamours and complaints againſt the ſociety increaſed more and more every day, and in ſeveral places dangerous ſeditions, tumults, diſſentions, and ſcandals aroſe, which almoſt wholly broke the bond of charity, and enkindled vehement party-work, hatred and enmity among the Chriſtian people; nay things went at laſt to ſuch a length, that the kings of France, of Spain, of Portugal, and of the Two Sicilies, were conſtrained to expel all the members of the ſociety out of all their dominions; judging this the only remaining remedy for ſo many evils, and of abſolute neceſſity to hinder the Chriſtian people from provoking and tearing one another to pieces in the very boſom of our holy Mother the Church.

But the above ſaid Princes being well aware that this remedy could not be firm, nor fit for reconciling the whole church, unleſs the ſociety were wholly extinguiſhed and ſuppreſſed, they with one accord applied to the late Pope, and with ardent prayers, and their whole authority, begged he would apply this moſt effectual means of ſecuring the peace of the church. But his death, which followed ſoon after, put a ſtop to the finiſhing this affair. And immediately, upon my exaltation (ſays his Holineſs), the ſame petitions, intreaties and wiſhes, were made known to me, accompanied with thoſe of many Biſhops and others, moſt conſpicuous for their dignity, learning, and religon.

He then tells, that he judged it neceſſary to take ſufficient time to conſider on an affair of ſuch moment, to beg light from heaven, and to examine an opinion pretty commonly ſpread abroad, viz. that the ſociety of Jeſus had been ſolemnly approved by the Council of Trent; but declares the Council did no ſuch thing, but only excepted it from a general decree made about admitting or rejecting the novices of other orders at the end of their noviciate, and leaves the ſociety to ſerve God and his church according to its own inſtitution as it had been approved by the Pope.

After all this his Holineſs then concludes, that forced by the duty of his high ſtation to preſerve peace and unity among Chriſtians, and ſeeing that the ſociety does no more produce thoſe fruits and ſervices for which it was inſtituted; nay, that while it remains, it is ſcarce poſſible that true and laſting peace ſhould be reſtored to the church; for theſe moſt weighty cauſes, and preſſed likewiſe by other reaſons which the laws of prudence and the good government of the church dictate, and which he reſerves in his own breaſt, following the examples of his predeceſſors, &c. He extinguiſhes and ſuppreſſes the ſaid ſociety, takes away and abrogates all and every one of its offices, miniſtries, &c. extinguiſhes the authority of the General, Provincials, and all Superiors, whether in ſpirituals or temporals, and totally and intirely tranſfers all that juriſdiction and authority to the reſpective Biſhops under the conditions after mentioned; prohibits any one after this to be received into the ſociety, or admitted to the habit and noviciate, and forbids thoſe already received to be admitted to any vows, ſimple or ſolemn; nay, orders that all the preſent novices be immediately and effectually diſmiſſed.

Alſo decrees, that thoſe who have the ſimple vows, and are not in holy orders, within a limited time at the diſcretion of the biſhops, not indeed above a year from the date of this brief, but ſufficient to find ſome proper employment for themſelves, muſt leave all houſes or colleges of the ſociety, and are intirely abſolved from all their ſimple vows, and may employ themſelves as they pleaſe: This is what the ſociety itſelf could have done by its own privileges, without any other cauſe but ſuch as ſuperiors ſhould in prudence judge proper.

That all thoſe in holy orders be at liberty to enter into any approved religious order if they pleaſe, or to remain in the world as ſecular clergy; but under the intire and total obedience and ſubjection to their reſpective Biſhops, and that a proper ſubſiſtence ſhould be allowed them out of the goods of the houſe or college to which they belonged.

That thoſe who are profeſſed and in holy orders, who have not a proper ſubſiſtence or place to retire to, or who by

age or want of health, or any other juſt cauſe, may find it inconvenient to leave the houſes or colleges of the ſociety, be allowed to remain in them; but with this condition, that they have no part of the adminiſtration of ſaid houſes or colleges; that they uſe the habit of the ſecular clergy, and be perfectly ſubject to the Ordinary. But it is abſolutely forbid that they aſſume others to ſucceed in place of thoſe who may fail, or that they acquire any new houſe or place, or alienate any houſe, place or thing which they now have: Alſo ordains, that thoſe who thus remain in different houſes, may according to their number be brought into one, and the houſes they leave be applied to other pious uſes, according to the ſacred Canons, as ſhall appear moſt agreeable to the will of the founders, the increaſe of piety, the benefit of ſouls, and the public good. In the mean time, that a proper perſon of the ſecular clergy have the management of ſaid houſe, the very name of the ſociety being intirely ſuppreſſed and blotted out.

Declares, That all thoſe members who have been already expelled from their reſpective provinces are comprehended in this decree, and totally ſubjected to their reſpective Biſhops, except they enter ſome religious order.

Ordains, That the Ordinaries, if they find any of thoſe who enter among the ſecular clergy duly qualified, may, as they pleaſe, give or refuſe them faculties for hearing confeſſions and preaching; but without ſuch faculties in writ none of them ſhall dare to exerciſe theſe functions: Theſe faculties, however, muſt never be granted to ſuch as live in the houſes of the ſociety as to externs, all whom his Holineſs perpetually interdicts from preaching and hearing confeſſions, and burdens the conſciences of the Biſhops and Ordinaries with this, as they ſhall anſwer to the great Judge.

Ordains, That ſuch of the ſociety as may be employed in teaching youth in any college or ſchool, be abſolutely excluded from all ſhare in the adminiſtration, government, or management of ſuch college or ſchool, and that only ſuch be allowed to teach as give hopes that they will avoid all looſe doctrine, idle diſputes, and vain contentions, and ſtrive to promote the public peace.

As for the ſacred miſſions, whatever is above decreed concerning the ſociety is underſtood alſo with regard to them.

Enables all ſuch of them as become of the ſecular clergy to receive benefices with or without the care of ſouls, offices, dignities, &c. and alſo the *eleemoſynas pro celebrando*, all which was prohibited to them while in the ſociety; On the other hand, he deprives them of all faculties whatſoever which they received from their General, in virtue of the privileges granted to the Order, as reading prohibited books, not obſerving days of faſting and abſtinence, advancing or poſtponing the office, and the like; becauſe his intention and expreſs will is, they ſhould in every thing accommodate their way of living to that of the ſecular clergy.

Forbids, That after this brief is promulgated, any one ſhall dare to ſuſpend the execution of it under any pretext whatſoever, of petition, appeal, recourſe, declaration, conſultation of doubts, or the like; but ordains, that immediately and forthwith this ſuppreſſion and annulling of the whole ſociety, and of all its offices, have its full effect as above, under pain of the greater excommunication reſerved to the Holy See, to whoever ſhall preſume to put any impediment, hindrance or delay to it.

Commands, in virtue of holy obedience, all and every one, eccleſiaſtics, regulars, and ſeculars, of whatever degree, dignity, quality or condition, and particularly thoſe who belonged or were aſcribed to the ſociety, never to defend, impugn, write, or even ſpeak of this ſuppreſſion, or its cauſes or motives, nor of the conſtitutions, rules, or government of the ſociety, nor of any other thing belonging to it, without expreſs leave from the Holy See; and alſo, under pain of reſerved excommunication, forbids all and every one, on occaſion of this ſuppreſſion, to hurt or injure any perſon, eſpecially ſuch as were members of the ſociety, or ſhew them any contempt either by word or writ in private or public*.

* *This prohibition is plainly intended to accompliſh intirely his Holineſs' deſign of ſecuring the public peace. As the cauſe is now ended, diſputes on either ſide, whether in defence or againſt the ſuppreſſion, can ſerve no good end, but muſt undoubtedly open a new door to thoſe very diſſenſions and animoſities which that ſuppreſſion is intended to remove. The procuring peace among Chriſtians is*

Exhorts all Chriſtian princes to concur in the execution of this decree, &c.

Exhorts all Chriſtian people to lay aſide all contention, &c. and live in peace and charity. And

Concludes with the uſual legal forms.

To the PUBLISHER *of the* WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

SIR,

IN your Magazine [Vol. xxi. P. 416.] I obſerved a letter from R. B. containing ſome queſtions concerning the High School of Edinburgh. 1. Is it not overgrown? 2. Is not the teaching Mr Ruddiman's Rudiments and grammar the firſt four years, and a different grammatical work the fifth, whatever may be the merit of that work, breaking the uniform plan of ſchool and college education? To the firſt of theſe queſtions the anſwer is obvious: A ſchool where the number of claſſes is diſproportioned to to the number of maſters may juſtly be termed overgrown.

How many claſſes one teacher, who makes conſcience of doing his duty, may manage well, has long been doubted; ſome have ſaid two, ſome three, and others four; but the high ſchool of Edinburgh has this advantage, that every maſter can have but one claſs. It will readily be allowed, that the more conſtantly a boy is under the eye of his maſter while in ſchool, the more queſtions are aſked at him; and the more he is employed in reading with particular attention, ſo much the better. But here all the boys in the ſame apartment are continually looking on the ſame book; every word that is read, is read by all; every queſtion is put to all; and, while all obſerve a profound ſilence, ſome one is called to give the anſwer. Hence it is evident, that in a claſs of ſixty or ſeventy the maſter's attention is leſs divided, and boys of equal genius and application will receive more aſſiſtance than they can poſſibly do under a maſter who has but twelve boys in his ſchool, and three of them in one claſs, four in another, and five in a third.

Beſides, Sir, if you look into the hiſtory of public teaching in any ſeminary, you will find that the moſt accompliſhed ſcholars have been bred there when the ſeminary was moſt frequented. This, you will ſay, is not at all wonderful. The characters of the teachers increaſe their ſcholars; and ſome have no other way to judge of the abilities and diligence of the maſter, but from the number of his pupils. Where many attend, ſome will probably diſcover genius and diligence. But, Sir, ſuppoſe the ſame teacher to have in one courſe a very full claſs, and in the next a very ſmall one, you would naturally conclude, that twenty boys in a claſs will reap more benefit than ſixty: beware, however, of this concluſion; it is raſh, it is ill-grounded. Amongſt boys, do you believe the ſpirit riſes, the emulation increaſes, as the number decreaſes? Among teachers, do you think the ſame chearful diligence ſubſiſts when the fruits of a man's labour can hardly furniſh the bare neceſſaries of life, as when they yield him a decent and comfortable living to his family?

To conclude, Sir: I wiſh my ſon and my daughter, in every branch of learning, may have many ſchool-fellows: I rejoice to ſee all the claſſes of the high ſchool and college well attended; and freely adviſe your correſpondent Mr R. B. if he reſolves to keep his ſons in the country, to ſend them to the beſt frequented ſchool in his neighbourhood.

The ſecond of his queſtions I can anſwer in few words: I was lately informed, by pretty good authority, that the principal maſter of the high ſchool intends to continue the reading of Ruddiman's grammar, to render the plan uniform. Miſunderſtandings, when they happen to riſe among men of ſenſe and candour, are ſoon removed; and I have no doubt but the high ſchool of this city, and the univerſity, will continue mutually to ſupport and do honour to each other.——Make my reſpectful compliments to Mr R. B. and if he thinks proper to increaſe the number of ſtudents at the high ſchool and college, he may depend on the care and attention of the maſters.

Yours, &c. *A* FATHER.

Edinburgh, Sept. 29.

doubtleſs a juſt cauſe for diſſolving any religious order, which at beſt is but a human inſtitution; and as every other means had proved unſucceſsful in the preſent caſe, the ſuppreſſion of the Society became neceſſary for that end, as his Holineſs expreſsly declares.

HISTORY OF THE TIMES.

OCTOBER 1.—*to* 7.

TURKEY.

Aleppo, July 12.

"THE laſt letters received here from Baſſora and Bagdad, bring the moſt melancholy accounts concerning the plague, which has carried off about 100,000 perſons in the firſt mentioned city, and upwards of 200,000 in the latter. The French conſul at Bagdad, and the agent of that nation at Baſſora, and all the Catholic prieſts in theſe two cities, are among the dead. The agent of Great Britain in all probability eſcaped the ſame fate, by retiring into the country with ſome of his countrymen, ſeveral of whom, however, had the misfortune to fall into the hands of Kerim-Kan, their enemy."

Smyrna, July 15. "The Ottoman miniſtry have at length taken a firm reſolution to reſtore good order in this city, and to maintain ſecurity and tranquillity for the Europeans who reſide here. We have mentioned before, that the grand ſignior had ſent hither the Koulkayaſi, inveſted with unlimited power. This officer, on Monday laſt, made his public entry into this city. The janiſaries, of whom he is lieutenant-colonel, at firſt gave him a very indecent reception, and talked to him in a very arrogant tone, implying a revolt. They took arms, and bound themſelves by a ſolemn oath, to ſupport each other mutually, and aſſembled together in every quarter of the city, and reſolved to reſiſt their chief. We every moment expected a general revolt; but the Koulkayaſi conducted himſelf with ſuch wiſdom and reſolution, that, by exerting his authority properly, he cauſed all the mutineers to be diſarmed, and return to their duty."

TURKEY AND RUSSIA.

Conſtantinople, Aug. 17. "The miniſters of the Porte continue to hold frequent conferences with one of the foreign miniſters, from whence it is conjectured, that a treaty, which is known to have been a long while on the carpet, is the object of their deliberations; by which treaty, a certain power is to make a diverſion in favour of the Porte, and declare war againſt Ruſſia. It is added, that the concluſion of this treaty has always been deferred, becauſe the contracting parties cannot agree about the article of ſubſidies."

Warſaw, Sept. 14. "According to our laſt letters received from the Ruſſian army, which was then encamped at the mouth of the river Janowitz, count Romanzow had detached a body of ſome thouſand men to the other ſide of the Danube, in order to watch the motions of the grand vizir.—We talk much of a peace between the Ruſſians and Turks. The former ſeem to wiſh it in good earneſt: and we are told, that the court of Peterſburgh have addreſſed themſelves to that of London, to uſe their good offices to effect the exchange of prince Repnin, priſoner at Conſtantinople."

Hague, Sept. 21. "Letters from Warſaw adviſe, that, according to authentic accounts received there from the Crimea, prince Dolgorucki, who commands the Ruſſian army, has been encamped ſince the 18th of July laſt, within a little diſtance of Precop, in order to be prepared againſt all events; and eſpecially to defeat the deſigns of Derwit Gueray, nephew of the chan lately deceaſed, in caſe he, who commands the Turkiſh fleet, ſhould attempt to land his troops on that peninſula. All accounts agree that the Ruſſian and Turkiſh armies will not attempt any thing more this ſeaſon."

POLAND.

Warſaw, Sept. 11. "Yeſterday Lukawſki and Cybulſki were executed. They were brought to the place of execution the ſame way they had obliged the king to go in the night of the 3d of November, eſcorted by all the guards of the crown, and a ſtrong detachment of Uhlans. They were both dreſſed in white, went in ſeparate waggons, and two capuchins with them. In a third waggon were Koſinſki, Offenberg, and Peſzinſki, who, with Lukawſki's wife, were all to be preſent at the execution. Koſinſki was in tears all the way he went. Lukawſki aſcended the ſcaffold firſt with great fortitude, and, to the aſtoniſhment of every body preſent, made a very affecting ſpeech, wherein he confeſſed his guilt, and hoped for pardon; after which he ſat down on the chair, and would not

have any thing tied over his eyes, but, holding his head as upright as he could, gave the ſignal for the blow, which followed immediately; after which his hands were cut off, his body opened, and the inſide put in a bag, then quartered and burnt. Cybulſki, who was obliged to be a ſpectator of all this, then mounted the ſcaffold, and ſat down in the chair, where his head was likewiſe taken off, and his body ſuffered to be buried. The executioner, who was ſent for out of Ermeland, made a ſpeech to the people, and particularly addreſſed himſelf to the elder part of the ſpectators, adviſing them to be careful ſo to bring up their children, that they might never come to the unhappy end of the late unfortunate wretches whom he had juſt executed. Laſtly, the names of the two who died in priſon, Tubalowitz and Hegwezewſki, were hung up at the gallows."

From the Viſtula, Sept. 14. "They write from Dantzick, that the court of Berlin demands from the magiſtrates of that town an annual ſum of 10,000 ducats, and the free paſſage of all effects and merchandize belonging to the king and his ſubjects; and that his majeſty will then take off the duty eſtabliſhed by him on the Fahr-Waſſer; but the magiſtrates would not accept of this propoſal.—This has been the moſt plentiful ſeaſon, both for fruit and corn, that has been known for many years paſt."

Warſaw, Sept. 15. "We are informed by good authority, that the government, which is to be introduced into this kingdom, is to be the following: 1. The republic is to keep its full liberty of electing the Poliſh king. 2. The candidates for a king muſt be Roman Catholics. 3. Natives of Poland: And, 4. Not the king's ſon nor grandſon is to offer himſelf a candidate. 5. The chief legiſlative power is to conſiſt of a council, at which the king is to preſide, and to have no more than one, or the caſting-vote. 6. Every thing muſt be decided by king and council; and one without the other is to be nothing at all. 7. The king is to be ſo limited, that he is not to be able to give a place or penſion; nay, even to inveſt any body with the order of the White Eagle, without the majority of that council (but how theſe members are to be conſtituted, is as yet unknown); and the crown army is to conſiſt of 30,000 men, the head officers of which are to be foreigners. 8. No one who is in the eccleſiaſtical order is to be a member in that council. And, 9. That diſſidents have a right to be members thereof."

HOLLAND.

Amſterdam, Sept. 15. "We have juſt received the following melancholy account from the Cape of Good Hope.—"The 31ſt of May, at ſeven in the evening, a violent ſtorm blew from the north-weſt, attended with thunder and lightning, which occaſioned ſo high a ſea, that all the veſſels that were in Table Bay, namely, the Young Thomas le Duyvenbourg, the l'Achat, and the Overhout, of which the two former were ready to depart, ſuffered great damage. The Young Thomas was driven the next morning, at ſeven o'clock, againſt a rock, and of the crew, which conſiſted of 207 men, only 67 were ſaved; among the drowned were the captain, the firſt pilot, and all the officers. Thoſe who were ſaved remained on board the wreck till the next day, when the wind was calm, and the waves had ſubſided; after which they returned ſafe to the Cape. Happily the company's treaſure, conſiſting of ſeventeen cheſts of ſilver coin, was not on board the above ſhip when the accident happened.——The three other veſſels were ſaved; but the main maſt of the Duyvenbourg was ſhivered by the lightning in ſuch a manner that it muſt be replaced by another before ſhe can ſail. The other veſſels loſt all their anchors, but the Duyvenbourg and the l'Achat will be ready to ſail in a few days."

ITALY.

Turin, Aug. 30. "His Sardinian majeſty has, in ſome meaſure, declared himſelf the ſupporter of the Corſican malcontents, by anſwering the French miniſter, who complained of the Sardinian ſhips aſſiſting the rebels, that his majeſty expected proper reſpect to be paid to his flag in the Mediterranean, and an immediate reſtitution of all veſſels which have been taken from his ſubjects by the French cruizers, under falſe pretences."

Rome, Sept. 4. "We continue the inquiries touching the late diſſolved ſociety of Jeſus, and have ſent all the plate found in their ſeveral convents and colleges to the Mount of Piety. Their ex-

general, the Abbe Don Laurent Ricci, has obtained commodious apartments in the Engliſh college, with permiſſion to ſay maſs in an adjoining chapel, and liberty to walk in the garden; nevertheleſs he has undergone ſeveral examinations by the advocate Andreatti, as have likewiſe father Stephanucci and his nephew, relating to the concealed effects of theſe religious.——An edict has been iſſued, dated Auguſt 26. which declares all perſons excommunicated who ſhall have any of their effects in their cuſtody, if they do not make it known to the congregation; and, beſides excommunication, they are to receive corporal puniſhment. Cardinal D—i will probably be ſubjected to the former, if he does not diſcover what he has done with the 40,000 ſequins which the fathers depoſited with him. But what moſt takes up the diſcourſe at preſent is, the arreſting cardinal Buonocarſi, for having given his ſentiments with reſpect to the Jeſuits, contrary to the edict of his Holineſs forbidding any one to ſpeak or write about their affairs. It is ſaid that the cardinal will certainly be excommunicated, and that his Holineſs is determined not to abſolve him, unleſs he publicly acknowledges his fault.

"The Pope has juſt ſent to Civita Vecchia an order for arming immediately ſome Feluccas to guard our coaſts in the Mediterranean, but more eſpecially to hinder the fraudulent exportation of grain from the eccleſiaſtical ſtate.——By an order of the ſacred congregation, and with the approbation of his Holineſs, Mr Gabriel Cannelli, ſecretary general of the ſociety of Jeſuits, was conducted the night before laſt from the Engliſh college, and placed with one of his companions in an apartment ſeparate from that of the Abbe Ricci.

"We learn from different towns and provinces of the Pope's domains, that his Holineſs's bull, for the abolition of the order of the Jeſuits, hath been executed in each, and among others at Macerata, Ferrara, Perouſe, Ancona, &c. where every thing was conducted with great tranquillity.—After having got together all the ready money found in the profeſſed houſe of Jeſus, in the cheſts of the aſſiſtants and procurators, including two depoſits reſerved for two verbal proceſſes of beatifications, it is computed, that it amounts to 18,000 crowns, and it was ſoon after depoſited in the Mount of Piety, to be diſpoſed of by the congregation."

Rome, Sept. 6. "Not a day paſſes but ſome Ex-Jeſuit, or ſome of their partiſans, are arreſted on ſuſpicion of concealing their effects. The Pope is determined to know what is become of their immenſe wealth, and particularly of the ſums depoſited by them in the banks of London, Amſterdam, &c. The intention of the Pope is to apply this money to the diſcharge of the debts of the apoſtolic chamber: and, as many cardinals and great men are ſuſpected of having aſſiſted in concealing their effects, an univerſal terror is ſpread through the city.—It ſhould ſeem that the Holy Father means to imitate the conduct of the unbelievers; for no emperor of Turkey ever purſued the adherents of a depoſed vizir with more ſeverity than the Pope purſues the adherents of this diſſolved ſociety."

WEST INDIES.

Extract of a letter from St George's Key, Bay of Honduras, to a gentleman in New York, dated June 4.

"On the 28th ult. an inſurrection broke out among the negroes in the Old River; at their firſt ſetting out they killed two white men. By the negroes, who have made their eſcape from them, we learn, that this matter had been long concerting. Three days ago there were above 100 armed men ſent after them; at firſt there were only 20 or 21 inſurgents. This moment we have received an account by a white man and a woman, who had been taken and afterwards releaſed by them, that on the 1ſt inſtant the rebels came to their houſe, firſt bound them to a poſt, and then robbed it of every thing they choſe to carry off, and obliged all the negroes to join them. The white man whom they ſaved, and Mr John Hill, were ſtanding together, when one of the rebels ſhot the latter dead. They then proceeded to attack two families, at five miles diſtance, declaring they would kill all the white inhabitants there, and ſome time after four guns were heard to go off at one of the ſaid houſes, which we hear has proved fatal to the whites. Their numbers are now ſuppoſed to be 70 or 80 ſtrong. We are obliged to be under arms night and day.—Captain Davis, who commands the Diligence ſloop of war, has been extremely kind and uſeful with his men and arms. There will be very little

wood of any kind ſhipped from hence this year.—I believe the inſurrection will be general. Several negroes in the New River have taken to the buſh, and yeſterday as a craft was coming down the Rio Hondé, they killed the ſteerſman, and went off to the Spaniards, who will protect them.—Theſe diſturbances will altogether put a ſtop to buſineſs, indeed moſt people threaten to leave the country."

AMERICA.

New-York, Aug. 19. "A proclamation, dated the 11th of June, is received from Georgia, publiſhed by Sir James Wright, governor of that province, in conſequence of the late ceſſion of lands by the Creek and Cherokee Indians upon Savannah River, &c. containing his majeſty's inſtructions for ſelling the ſaid lands, which are parcelling out in tracts of 100 to 1000 acres, and are to be exempted from payment of quit-rent for ten years, and a fort is to be immediately built and garriſoned for the ſecurity and protection of the ſettlers, againſt diſorderly hunters, vagrants, and ſtraggling Indians; one hundred acres are to be granted to the maſter or head of a family, and fifty acres for the wife and each child, and alſo fifty acres for each ſlave: And the maſters or heads of families will be allowed to purchaſe fifty acres for each able-bodied white ſervant man who they ſhall bring in to ſettle thereon, provided ſuch ſervants be indented for two years; and alſo twenty-five acres for every woman ſervant from the age of fifteen years to forty years, indented for two years."

ENGLAND.

LONDON, SEPT. 25.—to OCT. 2.

Advice is juſt received of a deciſive battle being fought between the Turks and Perſians near Omadorme, on the borders of Syria, and that the latter obtained a compleat victory over thrice their number of Turks, under command of Sihah Thamarſle.

By authentic advices juſt received by expreſs, the report of an armiſtice between the Ruſſians and the Turks is intirely without foundation, as the firſt will not recede from their laſt articles for peace, although their army has not met with their deſired ſucceſs; and, as the Turks are determined not to agree to their demands, the court of Ruſſia has already ordered a freſh ſquadron, conſiſting of five ſhips of the line, into the Archipelago: They are to touch at ſome port in England about the latter end of next October, in order to take in proviſions and pilots, and ſo directly proceed to their deſtination.

Letters from Peterſburgh, dated Auguſt 20. mention, that our factory there is in a very unpromiſing ſituation, from the great credit our merchants are under a neceſſity of giving, and that it is ſuppoſed, unleſs the empreſs grants ſome freſh advantages in favour of the Engliſh, our commerce with the Ruſſians will be intirely ruined.

M. de Choiſi, and twenty officers, who bravely defended the caſtle of Cracow, and were made priſoners, have obtained their liberty from the empreſs of Ruſſia, after ſixteen months confinement at Kiow, and arrived at Vienna on their return to their own country, where prince Louis de Rohan received them with great pleaſure.

Some letters from Dantzick mention, that a diſturbance lately happened at the cuſtom houſe, between ſome ſailors and the Pruſſian officers, in which one of the latter was killed.

A letter from Hamburgh ſays, our magiſtrates have granted the king of Pruſſia a piece of ground for a wood-yard, which, it is feared, will ſoon be converted into a fort, a dock, and a magazine.

It is ſaid the king of Pruſſia has declared himſelf the friend of the Jeſuits, and will grant them his protection. If theſe reverend fathers are poſſeſſed of conſiderable effects, his Machiavelian majeſty will take care of them and their affairs till he has robbed them of the laſt ſhilling. In this he will but follow the example of other great powers, who make no ſcruple to ſeize the goods of theſe unhappy wretches wherever they can find them: But it is juſt that a ſociety which was founded on principles contrary to the well-being of mankind, ſhould find no protection from the laws of any country, or any ſupport from humanity.

Letters from Vienna mention, that the value of the effects of the Jeſuits in the hereditary Auſtrian dominions amounts to forty millions of the empire.

Letters from the Lower Rhine aſſure

us, the Pope's Bull for ſuppreſſing the order of Jeſuits, has been neither read, agreed to, or affixed up, nor will it, till the elector Palatine ſhall have received an explication from his Holineſs on an affair of ſo great importance, which ſeems to intereſt in it the rights of all ſovereign princes.

Letters from Vienna, dated Sept. 15. ſay, "The emperor, notwithſtanding his great fatigue, enjoys a perfect ſtate of health. This monarch has travelled on horſeback, on his late tour, above ſeven hundred German miles, eating only once in the evening of each day, of ſuch food as he found at the places where he ſtopped, and ſlept on a ſtraw bed, covered only with his cloak."

The abbey of Grammont, the chief of an order of that name in France, is ſuppreſſed by a Bull from the Pope, and is to be united to the biſhopric of Limoges. The father general and abbe of that abbey have drawn up a memorial againſt this Bull, in which they repreſent, 1. That the Bull pronounces an union at a time when the ſtate of things can no way permit it to take place. 2. That there are not ſufficient reaſons ſubſiſting for ſuppreſſing the abbey, or for uniting it to the biſhopric of Limoges. 3. That the Bull contains clauſes contrary to the liberties of the Gallican church. The memoir is well written, and it remains to ſee whether it will produce the effect which the above fathers are labouring to accompliſh.

They write from Leghorn, Sept. 8. that the General Murray, an Engliſh merchant ſhip, arrived there the Monday before from Algier and Port Mahon. She had on board 104 Chriſtian ſlaves, redeemed at Algier by the benevolence of the empreſs queen of Hungary.

Some diſpatches were received on Saturday evening at the ſecretary of ſtate's office from Sir George Bridges Rodney at Jamaica. By the ſame veſſel it is ſaid there is advice, that a frigate had been diſpatched from Jamaica to reconnoitre the Havannah; and that ſhe ſaw there fifteen tail of the line, and four frigates, all with their tails bent.

A Summary of the Proceedings at Guildhall, *relative to the Election of* LORD MAYOR, Sept. 29.

WEDNESDAY noon a prodigious concourſe of the moſt reſpectable part of the livery attended at Guildhall, in order to proceed to the election of a proper perſon to ſerve the office of chief magiſtrate for the year enſuing.

At about a quarter paſt one o'clock the lord mayor, with the ſheriffs elect, the aldermen Stephenſon, Halifax, Croſby, Wilkes, Sawbridge, Oliver, Bull, Lewes, Thomas, and Plomer, aſcended the huſtings. The buſineſs of the day was opened by the recorder, in a ſpeech to the following purport:

"Gentlemen of the Livery,

"It is incumbent upon the duty of my office to explain the occaſion for which you are aſſembled. The period has now approached, when, by virtue of the powers veſted in you by the conſtitution of the city, you are called upon to nominate a proper ſucceſſor to the preſent worthy lord mayor.

"The importance, gentlemen, of the office, I need not attempt to explain; you are well apprized, that upon a due execution of the truſt repoſed in the object of your choice, depends the ſafety of your perſons, and the ſecurity of your properties. But, gentlemen, there is alſo another very important end gained; the truly reſpectable figure the city of London hath lately made; the noble efforts ſhe hath exerted in favour of general liberty, have all been owing to the rectitude of her magiſtrates, and may all be aſcribed to their inflexible attachment to the cauſe of freedom.

"I need not, gentlemen, go far back for inſtances of the truth of this aſſertion; the marble ſtatue now before my eyes calls to my mind an illuſtrious example of the inflexible virtue of the magiſtrate, the dignity of the ſenator, and the amiable excellence of the man.

"An intimation of this kind is I am ſure ſufficient; you will exerciſe your judgment with caution, your choice with circumſpection; you will act like men attentive to the welfare and happineſs of the community at large, and thus the corporation of London will be ſignalized for its efforts to ſecure to the preſent, and hand down intire to future ages the inеſtimable bleſſings of conſtitutional liberty."

This ſpeech was received with joy, and the livery teſtified their approbation with repeated burſts of acclamations.

The recorder having finiſhed his addreſs, Mr Sawbridge advanced, and with a certain dignity of air, yet becoming diffidence of manner, ſpoke in ſubſtance as follows:

" Gentlemen of the Livery,

" It has been predicted of me in the public papers that I ſhould ſtand candidate for the office of mayor in order to divide the livery, and thus treacherouſly elevate a miniſterial alderman to the chair.

" It has been predicted of me, that I ſhould decline a poll, and thus fruſtrate the kind intention of my friends.

" It has been predicted of me, that I ſhould delay ſoliciting your ſuffrages untill next year, the better to avail myſelf at the general election.

" Neither of theſe predictions happen to be founded on truth. With reſpect to my public conduct, whether it be deſerving of praiſe or reprehenſion is a queſtion tha: you, gentlemen. are to decide. I will abide by the deciſion of my conſtituents, nor have I reaſon to dread the ſevereſt ſcrutiny of my enemies. Gratitude from individuals I never expected; the public cannot be ungrateful; they delight in applauding, and moſt generouſly accept a rectitude of intention in lieu of thoſe actual ſervices which it is not always in the power of their ſervants, however well diſpoſed, to perform.

" I flatter myſelf, gentlemen, that my intentions hitherto have been honeſt; I have always conſidered, and do now conſider myſelf as the ſervant of my conſtituents; your views in honouring me with your favours I will to the utmoſt of my power endeavour to anſwer; command, and I will implicitly obey; for having no paltry ambition to gratify, no ſelfiſh ſchemes to accompliſh, you may diſpoſe of me juſt as you think proper. By co-operating with your deſigns, and acting in ſubſerviency to your wiſhes, I am certain of the only reward to which I aſpire —your approbation.

" But ſhould there be a man, who, jealous of the merits of others, and diabolically wiſhing to depreciate the honeſt in the eſtimation of the worthy, employs his whole time in traducing the characters of your ſervants; ſhould ſuch a man be found, who but muſt lament ſo great a perverſion of talents? Who but muſt deſpiſe the party capable of actions ſo foul; proſtitution ſo baſe; and degeneracy ſo unmanly?" [Here the livery, as fired with honeſt indignation, ſeemed to bear teſtimony to the juſtice of the cenſure by loud ſhouts of applauſe.] Mr Sawbridge proceeded: " However, gentlemen, neither letters nor paragraphs; neither the miſtaken zeal of friends, nor the cenſure of foes; nothing ſhall ever deter me from ſerving the public with honeſty and integrity; as I wiſh to live but for the public weal, I ſincerely deſire to live no longer than I can be ſerviceable in promoting the happineſs of the community, of which I will labour to render myſelf an uſeful member."

Mr Sawbridge bowed, and retired from the huſtings.

It would be ſuperfluous to ſay, that a ſpeech which breathed the genuine ſpirit of patriotiſm, was received with every mark of general approbation.

Sir Watkin Lewes then, in a ſhort ſpeech, " lamented the diſunion which prevailed amongſt the friends of freedom; aſſured the livery that no efforts had on his ſide been wanting to heal the diviſions; but as he found attempts ineffectual, deſpairing of ſucceſs, he had given over all thoughts of ever accompliſhing the much wiſhed for reconciliation. He added, that he had devoted himſelf to the ſervice of the public, and on that account had received much ill uſage from certain individuals: he, however, aſſured the livery, that this, ſo far from diſmaying, animated him to dedicate his future life to their ſervice; for that, as he was not conſcious of deſerving cenſure, he had a monitor within which taught him to deſpiſe it; and he concluded by intimating, that his enemies ſhould ſoon have a proof that he could act as well as ſpeak deciſively."

After Sir Watkin had finiſhed, and paid his obeiſance to the livery, Mr Wilkes came forward; when ſilence being anuounced, he ſpoke to the following purport:

" Gentlemen of the Livery,

" It is not with a deſign to make a pompous parade of my own ſervices, or to depreciate the ſervices of other men, that I now preſume to addreſs you, but to wipe off ſome aſperſions obliquely caſt upon me by the gentleman who ſpoke a little time ſince.

" The worthy alderman talked of " certain predictions;" how far ſome of them have been fulfilled in his own conduct, you are the beſt judges. He alſo talked of " paragraphs" and " letters:" Gentlemen, I do avow being the author of many paragraphs, and of many letters; I have for years been a public writer in the public papers; but with reſpect to the different pieces which I have ſent,

at different times. to the Public Adver tiſer, whether eſſays or paragraphs, the Printer was authoriſed to uſe his diſcretion, and give me up, or not, as the author; yet, notwithſtanding this fair and candid manner of dealing, notwithſtanding the complaints urged againſt me for my writings, none of the complainants have ever thought proper to call me to a private account, or proceed againſt me as a culprit amenable to the laws of my country. They have not ſought that ſatisfaction, which, if I had been guilty, they might eaſily have obtained in the courts of judicature. Gentlemen, if there be on either ſide reaſon to complain, I certainly have the moſt cauſe for complaint. A ſpecious manner will hide an infinite deal of art; a ſhow of of openneſs will cover the deepeſt diſſimulation. I make no kind of ſcruple to avow what I write; I have done it on many, and will do it on every occaſion, if properly called upon. The character of ſtabbing in the dark belongs not to me; and I ſhould be extremely ſorry to arrogate to myſelf the merits of other men.

"I conceive it to be my duty, gentlemen, as a citizen and member of parliament, to give you, on every matter of public importance, the beſt information in my power. I have a right, and I will exerciſe that right, to animadvert upon the public conduct of any candidate for your favour: others may throw out dark inſinuations; Mr alderman Oliver, and Mr alderman Sawbridge may throw out hints againſt a man whom they dare not name.—I dare, continued he, own that I have frequently cenſured various parts of Mr Sawbridge's public conduct; I never once touched upon his private conduct.

"When Mr alderman Croſby (who deſervedly gained the applauſe and eſteem of his fellow-citizens for acting ſo glorious, ſo truly patriotic a part), when he was pitched upon by the livery to occupy a ſecond time the city chair, Mr alderman Sawbridge was the man who *damned* the patriotic meaſure.

"The conduct of that gentleman, in regard to the *Antigallican Society*, was, to the laſt degree, culpable, and proves a deſertion from thoſe public principles he ſtill profeſſes to maintain inviolably ſacred. How can the alderman reconcile his conduct laſt year with the profeſſions he makes of always acting in obedience to your will? On the huſtings he pretends to be a mere machine in your hands, which you move as ſuits your pleaſure; in the council-chamber he ſpurns at your commands, and acts diametrically oppoſite to your wiſhes, by ſcratching for the perſon who you did not intend ſhould preſide over you. This, gentlemen, is a ſpecies of inconſiſtency too glaring to admit of excuſe; too ſhameful not to call for public cenſure.

"The *damned*, I beg pardon, I meant to ſay *condemned*, public conduct of Mr alderman Sawbridge, this is I have arraigned; this it is I will continue to arraign, in order that you may not be deceived, but clearly diſcern the friends and ſet a mark upon the enemies of the people.

"Inſtead of complaining about charges urged againſt him, it would have been more fair in Mr Sawbridge to have exculpated himſelf; let him clear up every part of his public conduct to the ſatisfaction of the livery; let him do this; then, and not until then, will I lay aſide my pen now employed in your ſervice.

"But then, gentlemen, this is deviating from the buſineſs of the day, which is appropriated to the choice of a mayor; I ſhall therefore intrude no longer upon your patience, than to aſſure you, that as I began, ſo I will ſteadily perſevere, till death ſhall put a period to my exiſtence, in every effort to promote the cauſe of liberty, and render eſſential ſervices to the people."

It is impoſſible to deſcribe the impreſſion this ſpeech had upon the auditors: ſuffice it to ſay, that the acclamation was general, ardent, and continued for the ſpace of many minutes.

Wilkes, Bull, Sawbridge, and Oliver were then named, and the ſhew of hands appeared in favour of the two former; but a poll was demanded by Mr deputy Judd and Mr Hurford, for Meſſrs Sawbridge and Oliver; by Meſſrs Houſe and Saxby for Wilkes and Bull.—The ſheriffs declared the poll ſhould not be publiſhed.

At the cloſe of the poll at Guildhall, Oct. 2. (being the third day), the numbers ſtood as follow:

For Mr Wilkes	627
Bull	623
Sawbridge	585
Oliver	548

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH, OCTOBER 7.

On the 1ſt inſtant, the circuit-court of juſticiary was opened at Inverary by lord Kaimes; in which Angus Macalaſter, merchant in Tarbert, in Argyleſhire, was fugitate for non-compearance. He was indicted for the crimes of forgery and perjury, by producing, at the cuſtom-houſe of Stranraer, a forged vendition of a ſhip, called the Mary of Tarbert, his property; bearing, that ſhe was built at Air, with the view of obtaining a regiſter of the ſaid ſhip being Britiſh built, and thereby intitled to the bounty provided by ſtatutes in favours of veſſels Britiſh built, employed in the white-herring fiſhery; and alſo ſwearing to the truth of this forged vendition.—Alexander Stevenſon, late maſter of the Speedwell of Tarbert, indicted for perjury, by ſwearing falſely to the number of ſailors on board his veſſel, while employed in the white-herring fiſhery, whereby he would have been intitled to the bounty provided by the ſtatutes made for encouragement of that fiſhery; was convicted, and condemned to be impriſoned till the 11th of January next, and then to be pilloried at Campbelton, with a paper on his breaſt, with theſe words, in large characters, wrote on it, *For endeavouring to defraud the public by perjury.* That is the day and place of the general rendezvous of the whole ſailors employed in the herring fiſhery, and was choſen as the moſt proper for publiſhing the crime and the puniſhment among the perſons chiefly intereſted.—There being no other buſineſs at that place, the court ſet out yeſterday for Glaſgow.

On Thurſday laſt, the circuit-court was opened at Aberdeen by lord Auchinleck, when John Oſwald, ſon to John Oſwald, huckſter in Aberdeen (formerly known by the name of *London Candie*), and Alexander Strachan, alſo huckſter at Loanhead, accuſed of petty thefts, were, upon their own petition, baniſhed to the plantations for life, and their ſervice adjudged for ſeven years.—Next day came on the trial of George Tod, reſidenter in Aberdeen, and Elizabeth Mearns his wife, accuſed of ſundry acts of theft, and for reſetting ſtolen goods: The libel being reſtricted to an arbitrary puniſhment, the court proceeded to the trial, which laſted till three in the afternoon, when the jury incloſed, and returned their verdict at five, all in one voice finding them *guilty* of the reſett of ſtolen goods, and that they were perſons of bad fame. On Saturday they received ſentence to be baniſhed for life, and their ſervice adjudged for ſeven years.—There being no other criminal buſineſs at that place, the court ſet out on Tueſday for Inverneſs.

Laſt week Charles Ingram, ſtabler in the Backwynd of Aberdeen, was unfortunately killed by a blow from a vicious horſe.

Some days ago, a boat, loaden with furniture and effects, belonging to Daniel Campbell, Eſq; of Shawfield, was loſt in her paſſage from Iſlay.

We are informed that Mr William Mylne, architect, is gone to Italy for the recovery of his health, which is greatly impaired by attending the conſtruction of the bridge here, and by the unfortunate accident which happened to part of it, and to relieve himſelf from that uneaſineſs of mind which muſt have ariſen from the vexatious diſputes between him and the managers of this city.

On Friday laſt, James Brown, carter in Glaſgow, was apprehended here, and committed to the tolbooth, accuſed of horſe-ſtealing.

On Sunday was committed to priſon, by warrant of lord Elliock, William Ogilvie, accuſed of theftuouſly raiſing and ſtealing potatoes from the farm and lands of Northfield, in the pariſh of Duddingſton, and ſhire of Edinburgh, the property of Andrew Scot tenant there.

We hear PETER FORRESTER, hardware merchant oppoſite to the Croſs-well, continues to give caſh for light Britiſh and Portugal gold, which will be of great ſervice to the public, as the banks do not take in any. Of the latter a great number of counterfeits are circulating.

Wrote Extempore *on ſeeing the performances in Painting of a young Gentleman, who was Deaf and Dumb from his Infancy, and but lately returned from* London.

WHEN ſovereign Nature meditates to ſhow
A man ſuperior to the world below,
Firm to her plan, and conſtant to her laws,
Something ſhe gives, or ſomething ſhe withdraws,

That marks the genius from the vulgar name,
And gives a title to eternal fame.
HOMER, the father of poetic fire,
Whom all the Muſes with their art inſpire;
OSSIAN, who ſits where Homer ſat alone,
With equal glory on the epic throne;
MILTON, who ſings of heaven in heav'nly ſtrains,
To whom the palm of paradiſe pertains;
Bereft of ſight, felt the poetic rage,
And, blind themſelves, enlighten ev'ry age:
Above the ſons of men they ſit ſublime,
Firſt in the annals of immortal time:
So you, ſecur'd by Nature's kindly pow'r,
From all intruſions on the ſtudious hour,
Shall riſe to rival thoſe illuſtrious names,
Whoſe happy pencil gen'ral honour claims;
Shall vie with Nature in the glorious ſtrife,
Till we miſtake the likeneſs for the life;
Shall be again what Raphael was before,
And wear the laurel which Appelles wore.
Thy works admiring, ages yet to come
Shall with their children to be deaf and dumb.

Leith, Oct. 1. N—— M——.

BIRTHS.

Sept. 24. At London, the lady of Sir Sampſon Gideon, of a daughter.

26. At ditto, the lady of lord viſcount Torrington, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

—. In India, John Lee, Eſq; ſon of the late col. Lee.

Sept. 22. At Biſhop's Waltham, Hants, admiral Fielding, aged 73.

23. On board the St Antonio from Jamaica, Eraſmus Evans, Eſq; an eminent planter in that iſland, who was coming to England for the benefit of his health.

23. At Hordley in Eſſex, Mrs Winterce, aged 106. She has four daughters now living, the youngeſt of which is upwards of 80.

26. At Foveran, Aberdeenſhire, in the 72d year of his age, and 40th of his miniſtry, the rev. Mr James Gilchriſt, miniſter of that pariſh.

27. At London, Dr Richard Lambley, chaplain to the archbiſhop of York.

INSCRIPTION *on the* DUKE *of* HAMILTON'S MONUMENT.

ALL the reflected dignity that ſhines
Thro' the long annals of two princely lines,
And all that lib'ral Nature could impart,
To charm the eye, or captivate the heart;
With ev'ry genuine mark that could preſage
Intrinſic greatneſs in maturer age;
A boſom glowing with fair honour's flame,
A love of ſcience, and a thirſt of fame,
Adorn'd the youthful tenant of this tomb,
Torn from his country's hopes in vernal bloom.
Whoe'er thou art who view'ſt this plaintive ſtone,
If e'er thy ſoul exulted o'er a ſon,
If public fame, avowing his deſert,
Echo'd the praiſes of thy partial heart;
Tho' all may mourn, 'tis thou alone canſt know
The piercing anguiſh of a parent's woe.

Erected by her Grace Elizabeth Ducheſs of Hamilton and Argyle, in memory of her ſon George James Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, who died on the 7th day of July, M,DCC,LXIX, in the 15th year of his age.

CIVIL PROMOTIONS.

The MAGISTRATES *and* TOWN-COUNCIL *of* EDINBURGH.

The Right Hon. GILBERT LAURIE, Eſq; Lord Provoſt, re-elected.

John Brown, Eſq:
George Macqueen, Eſq;
John Tod, Eſq;
James Torry, Eſq; } Bailies.

Charles Wright, Eſq; re-elected Dean of Guild.

James Stirling, Eſq; Treaſurer.

John Carmichael, Eſq; Old Provoſt.

John Kid, Eſq
John Grieve, Eſq;
Archibald Campbell, Eſq:
Thomas Cleghorn, Eſq; } Old Bailies.

Walter Hamilton, Eſq; Old Dean of Guild.

John Wordie, Eſq; Old Treaſurer, and College Treaſurer.

Meſſrs Charles Innes,
John Moffman,
Richard Richardſon, } Merchant Counſellors.

Orlando Hart,
Thomas Herriot, } Trades Counſellors.

Thomas Simpſon, Convener,
William Inglis,
Alexander Gardiner,
William Jamieſon,
Thomas Dick,
William Raeburn, } Council Deacons.

David Stewart,
Mark Sprott,
John Bonnar,
John Brunton,
John Maſon,
George Mellis,
Hampden Pridie,
Thomas Kirk, } Extraordinary Council Deacons.

Thomas Cleghorn, Eſq; Admiral of Leith.

John Grieve, Eſq; Baron Bailie of Canongate and Calton.

Archibald Campbell, Eſq; Baron Bailie of Portſburgh and Potter-row.

Mr Charles Innes, Captain of the Orange Colours.

PRICES *of* GRAIN *at* HADDINGTON, OCT. 1.

	First.		Sec.		Third.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wheat	23	0	21	6	20	0
Bear	21	0	20	0	18	2
Oats	15	0	14	0	13	4
Peaſe	17	0	16	0	15	2